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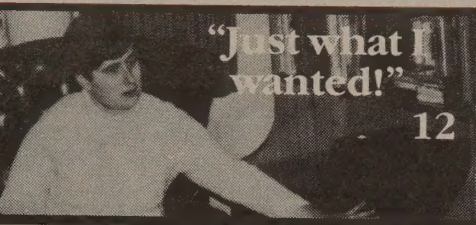
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**33rd AGM** 8-9

## Community care depends on winning over the Government and the press

"Prejudice and ignorance towards disabled people are still rife in our society", claimed Harold Sharpe, one of the guest speakers at The Spastics Society's AGM last month.

"If community care is not achieved in a proper, realistic



Harold Sharpe

manner then I'm afraid we are going to always remain a very backward society."

He put the responsibility for achieving community care for mentally handicapped people squarely on the shoulders of the Government and the press. It needed "adequate resources" and a change of public attitude.

"We've got to get the Government and the press on our side", he said.

"The press are the people that matter. Why, oh why, do they keep perpetuating stereotyped images of disabled people which are not true?"

## Government response to report is "inadequate"

Keen disappointment has greeted the Government's long-awaited response to a report on Community Care published by the Commons Social Services Committee last January.

The Committee put forward many recommendations for providing community care to mentally handicapped and mentally ill people.

Yet the 26-page response published last month had, according to the Community Care Campaigners, little to offer. It was described as "very disappointing" and "inadequate" by Roger Singleton (Dr Barnardo's), Brian Rix (MENCAP), Chris Heginbotham (MIND) and John Cox (The Spastics Society) in a letter to Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary.

On the four issues of particular interest to the Campaigners - families, finance, planning and attitudes - nothing concrete was offered.

The Government mentioned

He thought it was "atrocious" that mentally handicapped people still lived in state hospitals. Even seeing a group of disabled people in one of the Society's residential centres brought a lump to his throat.

Harold Sharpe was fed up with people telling him how marvellous or remarkable he was because he had a job and lived in the community.

"What a load of rubbish! The fact is, if more people were given the same chance as I had, there would be not one Harold Sharpe, but 10,000 - Heaven forbid!"

Having been educated at one of the first Spastics Society schools, he thought people should not forget what had been achieved by the Society.

"But there is still a heck of a lot which could and should be done," he said.

"We've got to encourage cerebral palsied people to be more assertive and to have more self-determination. We've got to encourage them to think realistically. And we've got to ensure that parents must let go, knowing that their child has a place in the world."

He was given a standing ovation.

*Tony Newton, MP, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled was the other guest speaker. See page 5.*



Young window shopper Tadeusz Piotrowski gazes at the Christmas display of the new Spastics Society shop in Portslade, Hove. Opened last month, it took £857 in 2 days. Manageress Carol Whitchurch is sure the shop will exceed its targets.

## Shops set new record!

The Shops Division of The Spastics Society is expecting a record net profit of over £1 million by the end of the year.

This would compare with last year's net profit of nearly £700,000.

So far this year the shops' income has been £2,364,297 - 32.3 per cent up on last year.

"We're up on other years by a long way," says John Tough, General Manager of Shops.

He attributes the records partly to the success of the 10 new shops opened this year, to the austere economic climate where people often can't afford new clothes, and to low inflation. The "anything goes" attitude to fashion has also played a part, he believes.

"We have a tremendous team spirit in the Shops Department, with good communication on all levels," says John Tough.

He plans to open another 11 shops by April next year. This will bring the total number in England and Wales to 131.

"We're working on a 10 year plan, and if that's adopted, then

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## Long-term plan goes ahead

The Spastics Society needs to have an overall strategy and to plan long-term. The Executive Council made this decision last month, adding the rider that it should be represented in the planning process.

"I am very pleased that we shall have a long-term plan, and the sooner we get down to it, the better", said Mrs Joyce Smith, the chairman.

She visualised one or two members of the Executive Council on the planning team.

The decision marks an end to the uncertainty about long-term planning that has existed since the Council decided to disband the corporate planning team in May. The team had been set up two months earlier to establish a strategy for the Society for the next 5 to 10 years.

The director, John Cox, was delighted about the decision. "As a first step we need to examine our aims to project the Society into the '90s within an ever changing society", he said.

"But if people think such a plan can be produced by November '86 that unlocks every problem and produces individual answers, they will be disappointed."



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# Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

## Indignity at the AGM

At last month's AGM, I sat in the rear, raised section of the hall overlooking the sea of chairs on the main floor.

I was astonished to see that no space had been allotted to people in wheelchairs.

Those arriving early in wheelchairs tried to park at the end of rows. One enterprising man had a chair removed from the middle of the last row and integrated himself among the able-bodied people. The rest crowded into the space between the last row and the back wall. They had to sit sideways as there was no room to turn the wheelchairs to face the front.

Late arrivals had no choice but to park their wheelchairs in the main entrance, creating a fireman's nightmare. The carers sat on the stairs to be nearby, further blocking the area.

Another indignity was that the chairman could not see the efforts to participate of those sitting at the back. One man was recognised only after the intervention of an able-bodied person nearby. At least one other person tried to take part but could not be seen. The question period was closed before assistance was offered.

Is there no creative way to arrange seating - in islands - so that people in wheelchairs can get a clear view?

Isn't awareness, sensitivity and integration what we are supposed to be about?

**Gayle Mooney**  
Circulation Supervisor  
*Disability Now*

*John Cox has promised to bring these points to the attention of the Executive Council - Editor*

## The name game

During the market research survey debate at last month's AGM, I was saddened by Bill Hargreaves' contribution and by the audience's reaction.

Mr Hargreaves maintained that "spastic" is acceptable and applicable to him, and that the Society should be careful not to neglect or risk past achievements by changing its name. The audience apparently agreed.

I disagree. Mr Hargreaves and I are both committed to this organisation, but we are generations apart. The Society cannot, I think, cling to the views of the older generation and alienate others. We have to move on.

The Society's past achievements are undeniable. But the past could obstruct positive change, if permitted.

The Society is about services and action. Therefore, terminology is secondary. But the survey indicated that the public has an unclear, incorrect view of the Society and the nature of cp. Surely there is cause for concern there, even about names. After 33 years people do not know what is meant by "spastic" or "cerebral palsy".

Can we expect public support if people do not understand cp itself? Cp has 3 types; using only one type to explain all three compounds confusion, solving nothing. Personal preferences are not important. Communication is.

The public should not continue to have an old-fashioned, misguided impression of the Society. If the generation gap prevails, it will.

**Chris Davies**  
Publicity and Information  
Department  
The Spastics Society

## A response to Jim Woods

I read with considerable interest Jim Woods' Viewpoint in the November issue of *Disability Now*. As Director of Social Services I feel I must respond to the points he raises.

Firstly, The Spastics Society did not "panic" in making structural changes in the staff management of residential units; it was a carefully planned and thought out process.

The purpose of the exercise was to encourage development of the cerebral palsied residents and to ensure that there were sufficient members of staff available within units to make choice and self-determination a reality for consumers of our services.

When I joined the Society in 1983 the staffing levels in many of the units were so low that - to put it crudely - staff were left in the position of simply feeding faces and wiping bottoms. No development of the cerebral palsied person was happening.

We still have a long way to go in developing our residential service but I think we are beginning to piece our act together after many years of neglect.

On the second point, there is considerable concern about central and local government financing of voluntary sector residential provision.

Insufficient money is made available to meet the cost of providing care and, hence, The Spastics Society is left to pick up the tab. In 1984/5 this amounted to some 4 million for residential and educational provision.

This is not acceptable. Community care is costly and this needs to be recognised by Government. If it is not recognised, The Spastics Society will be faced with a real dilemma about whether to continue subsidising services or not.

I accept Mr Woods' view that people need to be paid for the jobs that they do, and paid a realistic wage. Unfortunately, given current legislation, for many disabled people living in residential care this is not possible; they are limited to £4 per week.

The Social Security Reviews have recommended an increase in this sum to £15 per week. Whilst welcoming the initiative we need to campaign and lobby both central and local government to give recognition to the abilities of cerebral palsied people and to pay a going wage for the job done.

I note Mr Woods' comment about people in residential centres being "sex-starved".

The Society is fully aware of the problems associated with developing, maintaining and sustaining personal relationships in the residential environment. We hope to put a policy statement on this matter to the Executive Council early in the New Year.

With regard to the last point, I would stress that The Spastics Society does pay the going rate for the job. These are laid down by the National Joint Council for Local Authorities Scheme of Conditions of Services. The Society recognises and applies these Conditions of Service to its employees in residential units.

**John Belcher**  
Director of Social Services



Amongst the issues discussed by the Executive Council at its meeting in November were three of concern to society in general. They provoke strong personal views and varying opinions. All of them were considered seriously by the Council before it arrived at guidelines for The Spastics Society.

The first is embryo research.

The Powell Bill which was introduced during the last parliamentary session sought to ban all experiments and research on embryos. It came after the Warnock Report on embryo experimentation had proposed that experiments should take place up to 14 days provided scientists were licensed by a statutory body (to include lay representatives) and that each project was vetted.

Many people at the time felt the anti-lobby was setting the pace for debate on this vital issue and distorting the arguments by using emotional material designed to shock.

To counter this emotive "propaganda", an organisation called Progress (into embryo research) was launched last month. Its aim is to increase knowledge about research into the earliest stages of human conception through an informed debate between the public, policy-makers and scientists. This would ensure that any legislation would be based on full and factual understanding of what is involved.

The issues which Progress is trying to promote have some relevance to the prevention of handicap as well as to the

treatment of infertility.

At present the method of pre-natal screening - amniocentesis - is both distressing and causes occasional complications. If termination is chosen after this test, it must be performed after 16 weeks and can be physically and emotionally damaging.

Those who favour research into reproduction argue that mothers who are identified as "at risk" might have the pre-embryo examined before the 14th day when the embryo begins to form.

Normally several embryos are fertilised and only some are put back into the mother. Where the couple were known to be at risk of some abnormality, the embryos could be screened and only normal embryos used in the pregnancy.

Pressure from the parents of severely handicapped children has been an important factor in the establishment of Progress which seeks to answer many of their questions and anxieties.

The Executive Council debated these sensitive and important issues including the possible abuse of such research and the fundamental moral objections which some people have - including some parents of handicapped children - to any form of research involving embryos.

However, they felt that it would be irresponsible of them to close their minds to consideration of information and research which could contribute to one of the primary aims of the Society: preventing handicap.

The Council agreed:

"That the Executive Council

## Executive Council decides on embryo research



supports Progress (the Campaign for Research into Reproduction) whose aim is to promote informed debate on the value of embryo research, but only within the recommendations made by the Warnock Committee in which it was proposed that 'research may be carried out in any embryo resulting from invitro fertilization... up to the end of the 14th day after fertilization'.

The second issue under discussion was the use of animals in research. This too provoked a detailed discussion on the rights and wrongs of the research.

Further discussion will take place at the next meeting in February and a policy statement will be issued.

Finally, the Council considered the use of Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS), a new pre-natal screening test for abnormalities in the foetus which can take place at around 8 to 10 weeks of pregnancy.

The Council endorsed the recommendation of its Medical Advisory Committee that the Society should support evaluation of these techniques and the random trials to be carried out at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at Oxford.

*John Cox*

## Planning for the future

One of the most common problems facing parents today is how to make suitable financial provision for their handicapped children. This can be a most harassing and costly experience.

In order to help parents avoid the dangers of acting upon incorrect or misleading information, in 1979 a group of parents, all of whom had handicapped children, combined their technical knowledge and expertise as solicitor, professional trustee and adviser on planned savings.

The result was the formation of the MSB Plan which remains the only system to provide a guaranteed "extra comforts fund" without affecting the handicapped beneficiary's entitlement to state benefit.

The Plan may be adapted to suit any situation, personal circumstances or needs. It is not an expensive arrangement requiring large capital sums, nor will it place any financial burden upon a family's budget. Any existing inadequate arrangements may also be assigned or settled to obtain benefit of the Plan.

An important feature is the continuing service afforded to the handicapped beneficiary which may give peace of mind to many parents; for if their child became the sole survivor of their family, he or she would be sure to receive "extra comforts".

There is no "selling" involved in the Plan, nor do agents come knocking at your door. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest confidence by correspondence and telephone.

The facilities offered through the Plan are not available else-

where and are only applicable to people who are disabled.

Particulars of the Plan are available from The Spastics Society's Centre at Fitzroy Square, or direct from MSB Plan Limited, 29 Rushdene Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1SW, tel: 01-429 1333.

**Charles Lovelock**  
Director  
MSB Plan Ltd

## Fashion Services for the Disabled

I was delighted to read the article "Clothes - the big give-away" (*Disability Now*, November).

I wonder if many doctors and social workers who deal with the psychological problems of disabled people really understand the depressing effect on them of a lack of suitable clothes. You are already demoralised by your less than perfect body, and inadequate, uncomfortable clothes just add to your depression.

I had all the problems mentioned in the article: wearing sloppy, ill-fitting uncomfortable clothes from one mail order house then another, with very limited choice of material, style or colour.

Then I came across the leaflet from Fashion Services for the Disabled at Shipley.

I met the very efficient Mrs Hurrell who is in charge of the workshop. She fully discussed my physical problems and clothing difficulties and advised me on suitable styles.

At long last I was free to choose my own materials, my own colours etc, which is denied in mail order shopping. As a result, I have beautifully fitting, comfortable garments, expertly made, which have completely

lifted my whole outlook.

Fashion Services for the Disabled is a training centre and workshop. Disabled persons and relatives can learn about fabrics, design, pattern-making and fitting, and garment construction. The workshop designs and makes garments to meet individual needs.

The charges are very modest so the workshop has to be subsidised to enable the highly trained and caring staff to carry out their work.

Sadly, time is running out for the workshop and funds are urgently needed if this work is to be carried on. It cannot be a money-making venture. Yet it trains people and gives great physical and psychological benefits to disabled people.

Any money donated would be an investment for the future.

**Joan Hughes**  
"Elsinore"

152 Manchester Road  
Bury, Lancs BL9 0TL  
Leaflets are available from  
Fashion Services for the Disabled,  
Unit 300, Salfaire Workshops,  
Ashley Lane, Shipley,  
West Yorkshire BD17 7SR.

## Annoyed

Regarding your "People" article in October, I am writing to express my annoyance that you did not point out to the readers that Mr Ciaran Beary is NOT in a wheelchair.

**Nicki Trench**  
35 Christina Park  
Totnes

Devon  
Point taken. But some people with disabilities might be pleased to know that The Spastics Society is taking on employees with disabilities. - Editor







**MW** How would you define "community care?"

**JB** For The Spastics Society, community care is about establishing a comprehensive network of local facilities which are responsive to the needs of the individual and the family, and helping the individual to achieve the maximum autonomy they want for themselves.

For many people to be of the community means to be *within* it, and that means being accessible to people, to services, and support networks.

Community care is also about forging relationships between "enablers" and disabled people.

Finally, it is about considering the whole needs of a person, not just the bit that requires treatment.

**MW** You have talked about the myths of community. What are they?

**JB** First, community care is not a cheap option. It can be costly.

Secondly, it's not care *by* the community, but it's about developing comprehensive local services *in* the community.

There's a lot of misconceptions about care in the community relating to families, to the "informal carers". That places a tremendous burden on the family, and in many instances women. Did you know that there are now more women remaining at home in this country to care for an elderly or disabled relative than there are women at home rearing children under 5?

There are other myths. Community care is not about dumping patients from the Health Service and hospitals into a community setting, nor about simply transferring resources from an underfunded health service. And it's talking about the total range of services, not just primary care.

**MW** How many people would The Spastics Society be concerned with?

**JB** There are some 250,000 adults in mental handicap hospitals today, and from our survey we know there are over 450 children. If we say about a third of that adult population will have some form of physical disability as well as mental handicap, and many of those people will have some form of cerebral palsy, it could be about 80,000 people.

When you consider that we just scratch the surface of people who are not in our health or hospital services at the moment the potential is overwhelming.

**MW** Can you give some concrete examples of what The Spastics



Steve and Sylvia Gardner outside their flat, part of the Milton Keynes Community Care Scheme run by The Spastics Society.

## Community care opportunities and barriers for a voluntary organisation

Mary Wilkinson talks to John Belcher, Social Services Director



**Society is trying to do in community care?**

**JB** Obviously we are campaigning to dispel the myths, and we gave evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on care in the community on the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

We are about to launch the Individual Programme Planning Service. Every resident in our care, every person attending one of our industrial units - about 1,100 people - will have an individual programme plan. This is a series of statements about tasks and objectives worked out by professional staff within the Society, the individual cerebral palsy person and that person's family, and reviewed regularly.

It really is a contract between the person and The Spastics Society which will try to build up the autonomy of the individual so that they have a much greater say in running their own lives.

Then there's our partnership with health services, local authorities, and other voluntary organisations to provide services where that's appropriate.

At the Association of Directors of Social Services conference in September we were approached by over 25 local authorities.

We've set up a whole series of

meetings and we are well advanced on a number of schemes.

What's interesting about these proposals is that revenue and capital funding will come from the statutory sector; the expertise from The Spastics Society.

**MW** This idea of partnership was a theme in Tony Newton's AGM speech, wasn't it?

**JB** Yes. But it's important that local authorities came to us. Banging on the doors of local authorities and saying what you want may have worked in the 1970s but I don't think it works so effectively in the 1980s because local authorities are severely constrained financially.

The Cinderella service has always been the physically disabled because there is no statutory requirement laid down to provide for them.

We certainly welcome the initiatives by central government to involve voluntary organisations in the planning process.

We want to encourage Spastics Society representation on as many JCCs as we can.

**MW** What barriers do you see to improving community care for disabled people?

**JB** Well, information and advice services to disabled people are woefully lacking. For example, only 67 per cent of disabled people

in 1981 claimed the Supplementary Benefit to which they were entitled. At today's prices that is about £17 a week.

Income support is also crucial. It is obviously an issue about finance; but it is also about providing dignity to disabled people, giving them sufficient income so that they can make choices about their own lives.

90 per cent of carers are unable to claim the Invalid Care Allowance simply because they're women.

Education is another barrier. We need to provide a comprehensive, integrated education service up to, and including, the age of 25 for those people who want it.

Employment. People receiving Supplementary Benefit are not able to earn more than £4 per week or they start to forfeit their Supplementary Benefit. We welcome the Government's recent recommendation for £15 per week, but it's still not breaking that poverty trap.

Then there's accommodation. What is needed is ordinary housing in ordinary streets in ordinary communities. There's absolutely no reason why with appropriate support networks, those living options should not be available to 98 per cent of disabled people.

Transport is another barrier.

Now, if we look at the broader issues of providing services and service planning: we talked about the fact that there's no legislation. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act is toothless - it needs to be reinforced.

The 1981 Education Act offers us an opportunity because it requires every local authority to produce a statement of need - not only a child's education requirements but social and other needs too. I believe that this concept should be extended to adults. Our Individual Programme Plans will produce statements of needs. But should this not happen nationally?

We've touched on planning - that's another barrier - and, of course, there's finance.

**MW** At the Community Care Campaigners meeting with Government ministers, it was said that if existing money was used effectively maybe more money would not be necessary.

**JB** I can accept that there are millions of pounds locked up in the Health Service in acute care services. As wards close, as hospitals close, that money could be

transferred from a hospital-based service to a community-based service.

The major source of funding for community care has come from joint finance arrangements: £20 million a year of new money has been made available. Yet in its recent report, The Association of County Councils estimated that for care in the community to be a reality, £500 million a year of new money needs to be made available!

For the Society to provide a service for a handicapped school-leaver who wants to live in the community and attend a local day-care resource, we need a fee of about £15,000 a year. Local authorities are prepared to pay around £12,000 per year. So the Society is subsidising its residential and educational service to the tune of about £4 million.

If we could even halve that subsidy it would free us to develop new and exciting services that would be far more responsive to the needs of individuals within those communities.

**MW** Tony Newton also said in the AGM speech that he was keen to promote the work of The Spastics Society. How best could this be done?

**JB** There are a number of issues we have raised with central government recently.

For example, ensuring board and lodging payments for disabled people are adequate. £180 per week in no way goes to meet the cost of providing care - or "enabling services", as we prefer to call them. The Minister has been very fair in that he's asked if we would be prepared to have an independent firm of consultants verify our services, and we've said "Yes".

Bridging finance also concerns me. If we are to provide a range of services for disabled people as we move away from an institutional, residential service into more of a community setting, what can central government do for organisations like ours to ensure that money can be made available, even if it's only for a short time?

We would like to see government initiatives for specific groups too, such as the profoundly handicapped school-leaver.

*Sharing Caring - Caring, Equal Opportunities and the Voluntary Sector* is a new booklet published by the Community Care Project. 95p from NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1.

## REPORTS

### CAF Conference

### Charity in danger from the State

To miss the Charities Aid Foundation conference 2 years ago would have seemed no great disaster. But this year, with some 540 delegates representing charities, industry, advertising agencies and consultancies, it was a conference that no one committed to charitable fundraising could afford to miss. One felt buoyed up by so much interest; there was a new feeling of solidarity.

Michael Brophy, director of CAF, gave us a gallop through the recent history of charitable support, concluding that with the dramatic increase of central government and quango funding to voluntary organisations (up by 35 per cent since 1979), there was a danger of the State, in effect, hijacking charity.

More private sector support

for charities was vital, he said, and he compared private giving in the USA (1.17 per cent of private income, 1.5 per cent of corporate giving in 1982) with that in the UK (0.3 per cent private income, 0.2 per cent corporate giving).

Lord Carr of Hadley talked of the trend towards corporate giving at local level: companies perceive it is in their interest to encourage a healthy community.

Lord Carr is chairman of Business in the Community, a partnership of business enterprises, central and local government, chambers of commerce, trade unions and voluntary and professional organisations. He believes BIC has helped to create the mechanisms for local partnerships; there are now over 20 with 2,800 companies involved.

Emphasis on support at local level also came from David Waddington MP, Minister of State at the Home Office. He welcomed the Council for Charitable Support set up by CAF to help develop community trusts (independent charitable trusts aiming to find and use funds to help local communities).

al communities).

The Home Office and the Department of the Environment are between them earmarking about £100,000 a year for 3 years to "pump prime" local community trusts in England, and the Welsh Office is considering some help in Wales.

So much emphasis on local help was of some concern to national charities. One questioner from the floor asked, pertinently, whether local fundraising might not mean that money is going where it is least needed, whereas national charities can channel funds to areas of most need.

Another thought that the Government should show tangible support for the private sector by making some tax concession to private givers as is done in the USA.

A company panel composed of representatives from Lex Services, Citibank, Esso Petroleum and Conoco UK supplied some helpful hints to smaller charities who may not be *au fait* with approaching big companies.

In the afternoon, there was a

choice of 4 workshops.

The one on creative sponsorship offered nothing very original. We all know it is easier to get sponsorship for capital rather than revenue costs. A good question, imperfectly answered, was "How do you package mental illness?"

The covenants workshop agreed that a standard form of presentation might attract more public giving, and charities were willing to support CAF advertising.

The day closed with a lively session on fundraising ideas. Representatives of 4 very different charities, including Andrew Ross from The Spastics Society, offered some "good" ideas.

Andrew Ross  
John Rowe

### IEE prize-giving and exhibition

### Absolving the social conscience

The Institution of Electrical Engineers (the IEE) is the highly

prestigious professional body which represents many thousands of electrical engineers in this country and throughout the world.

The Institution inaugurated a three yearly competition in IYDP to, as Sir Redmond (a Fellow of the IEE and chairman of the panel) said, "...underline the concern of this Institution for the more human aspects of engineering which are too often forgotten in the light of other applications."

Without detracting from the spirit of this statement, it is difficult to imagine that the social conscience of the IEE is absolved by one triannual competition, especially when the result this year was so controversial.

There were two prize winners: an eye-gaze operated computer and an electronic bladder control device. The designers received £5000 cheques from the IEE last month presented by Tony Newton MP, Minister for Social Security.

The Brindley-Finetch Bladder Controller was developed by  
*Continued on next page*



# What the Government has done and will do for people with disabilities

Tony Newton, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, spoke at this year's AGM of The Spastics Society \*

I am grateful, indeed delighted, to have been asked to come to The Spastics Society's AGM.

I want to talk today about 3 areas that fall within my responsibilities as Minister for the Disabled, some of which have been touched on already by Harold Sharpe. They are: financial support, the provision of services, and creating jobs for disabled people.

The long-term aim that we have expressed as a Government – and I think in these generalised terms it should be expressed by any political party in this country – is to work towards a coherent system of social security benefits for people who are long-term sick and disabled.

## Social security

Developments over the past two decades have been quite significant, and I hope that we have made some further steps forward.

For example, we have eliminated the so-called "invalidity trap", which is a technicality I shall not attempt to explain, but which did keep down the benefits of a significant number of sick and disabled people – up to 70,000 on some estimates.

We have taken the Mobility Allowance out of tax.

And we have introduced the Severe Disablement Allowance. Some people here may have reservations about its title and about some of the qualifying conditions, but it does represent a useful step forward towards the kind of coherent and comprehensive system of benefits which everyone would like to see.

What we have to acknowledge is an astonishing lack of information about the numbers of disabled people in this country and their needs. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys is now undertaking the most wide-ranging survey of the circumstances and numbers of disabled people that has ever been conducted here. It will provide information which will help us to plan social security benefits more effectively and, I hope, to plan social and health services as well. Your Society has helped to design this survey and to publicise it among disabled people.

Partly because of lack of information, our recent Social Security Review did not attempt to deal with disability benefits.

But disabled people are, of course, affected by the major income-related benefits: Housing Benefit and Supplementary Benefit.

As you know, we have not put forward a variety of proposals for consultation. I am not in a position to communicate final decisions or final proposals to you this morning, but we have had a wide range of comment from groups and individuals, some 7,000 representations in all, including The Spastics Society.

I want to move now to community care.

You know, of course, that the report of the Social Services Committee on community care for mentally ill and mentally handicapped adults gave wholehearted support to the general aim of community care.

However, the care provided in the community must be better suited to people's needs than the care that was being provided in the institutional setting. That is not quite the same as the point about resources, though obviously resources are relevant to it.

## Service provision

Living in the community will not be better for disabled people unless we make sure that the services and the provision and public attitudes make it genuinely so.

Certainly The Spastics Society has been playing a very important part in developing public attitudes in this field, in reshaping its own work and in pressing central government to develop its thinking and its policies and the guidance it gives to local and health authorities.

Because of this I was particularly pleased that we were able to give you a grant of £250,000 from the pound-for-pound scheme towards the capital costs of Beech Tree II, the residential unit near Preston for severely behaviourally disturbed children. It is by far the largest grant we have made from that scheme.

But community care will only go well where there is consulta-

tion and co-ordination of the efforts of the different bodies involved – local authorities, health authorities and the voluntary bodies. Even within local authorities the co-ordination between the Education Department and the Social Services Department is not always what might be desired, and too often different authorities are not working together as well as they should be and not working well enough with the voluntary sector either.

There is an important role here for The Spastics Society and for other major voluntary organisations to make sure you are banging on the doors at ground level where the services have to be provided, and that those making decisions in health authorities and local authorities are aware of what you feel and the need for them to get together with each other and with you.

An effort of that kind is often worth 10 tons of ministerial paper circulated round the country.

So I would urge you not just to look at me as the Minister and say, "Why don't you do something?" I will certainly do what I can. But what I can do and what my colleagues in the Health Department, the Department of Education and many other parts of central government can do depends crucially on what you do on the ground and the sense of commitment and enthusiasm which you communicate at local level.

We have helped to increase the input of voluntary societies through the Joint Consultative Committees. Those arrangements are in their infancy, but I hope you will do your best to ensure that they work.

The work of The Spastics Society is something we are very keen to promote not just for itself but because we believe it can help to maximise what the community can do in an area where there is never likely to be all the resources that everybody would like.

This leads me to the Government's Green Paper on the role of social services departments to be published in due course. There has been some anxiety among voluntary organisations that the Government has in mind

"What I can do depends crucially on what you can do on the ground and the sense of commitment and enthusiasm which you communicate at local level"

to pass the responsibilities of local authorities to voluntary organisations.

I want to make it very clear that there is no question of us seeking to do this. What we are concerned about is that local authorities should see it as an important part of their role to ensure that the resources and the innovative capacity and the energy of the voluntary sector is put to good use and not simply left to operate on its own. It is a partnership we are looking for.

Perhaps the most fundamental concern facing any of us involved with the problems and needs of disabled people is how to promote greater opportunities for them.

I want to touch on 3 areas: employment, housing and access.

## Employment

In employment, the main thrust of our policy, as of yours, is to seek the greater integration of those with disabilities alongside their able-bodied counterparts, and to make sure that the resources available for achieving this are used as effectively as possible.

No-one can be happy with the present level of unemployment. But even against this difficult background, some 71,000 disabled people were placed in employment last year by job centres, an increase of some 3 per cent over the previous year.

There is also a growing provision of places under the Sheltered Placement Scheme: 450 were provided last year. I am pleased that The Spastics Society is extending its own involvement by running Sheltered Placement Schemes which provide integrated job opportunities for severely disabled people in open employment. I hope it

will encourage other voluntary bodies.

On housing, you may know that the Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Home Improvement Grant system and published a Green Paper.

Two options are put forward for the particular problems of disabled people: to adapt the main grant arrangements or to introduce a separate system tailored specifically for them. In either case, you can be assured that grants will be retained for essential adaptations.

This year has seen a very significant development in access for disabled people. On 1 August, for the first time in this country, enforceable regulations came into effect to ensure that all floors of new offices and shops and single-storey factories, educational and public buildings are designed and built so that disabled people can use them.

I know there has been considerable concern about the consultation document on the regulations and guidance for access to cinemas. Can I just emphasise – because there has been a good deal of misunderstanding – that the aim of Home Office ministers is to widen access opportunities for disabled people and blind people not to increase the restrictions.

Looking at all these issues, I hope we can agree that very considerable progress has been made – but not as much as you or I would like.

I welcome the work that you do in helping to create the public attitudes which can help me as a politician and a minister to help you as a voluntary organisation to make that progress go faster.

\*The speech has been edited.

## REPORTS

Continued from previous page  
Peter Donaldson at the Medical Research Council's Neurological Prostheses Unit, and uses a method of treating incontinence by electric stimulation of the appropriate nerves in the spinal column. The equipment comprises an implanted receiver plus a pocket sized control unit, and there are now almost 100 patients, mostly with spinal injuries, who have gained some benefit from the system.

CEDRIC, the eye-gaze controlled computer, was the other prize winner. This device caused a ripple of controversy when it was mentioned in *Disability Now* in November and December 1984.

The device is certainly a skilful piece of engineering, which can determine where on the computer screen the user is looking. The screen usually displays a menu from which the user can select either environmental control functions or letters and words for communication.

But is CEDRIC in general use? Does it have good service and support? Is it making a significant contribution to the quality of life of people with disability?

The answer is not yet.

One wonders whether a piece of equipment costing £10,000 can fulfil these requirements for entry to the competition.

At the accompanying exhibi-



Andrew Downing, inventor, with CEDRIC.

tion, where a few of the other entries were on display, some of the judges did not even appreciate that the exhibits had been in the competition.

Perhaps CEDRIC can mesmerise too!

Peter Watts  
UMIST

## East Regional Conference

### Care in the community – striking the right balance

"Care in the Community – Striking the Right Balance" was the subject of The Spastics Society's East Regional Conference held at Meldreth Manor School on 21 September. This was a subject close to my heart – and, I am sure, to the hearts of many other disabled people.

As usual, there was a low turnout of disabled people, which I find disappointing since the future of independent living for

people with disabilities will probably be decided at such conferences. How are organisations supposed to find out what we, the disabled, want if we do not make our voices heard?

Keith Hutchinson, Nursing Officer for North East Essex Health Authority, spoke first on "A Home of our Own" – in the National Health Service. It's surprising what the NHS can do when they put their heads together!

Mr Hutchinson explained that in NE Essex they have a number of group homes for mentally and physically handicapped young people. These people live their own lives, deciding for themselves what food they are going to buy or where they are going for the evening.

The next speaker, John Belcher, Director of The Spastics Society's Social Services, gave the Society's view on Care in the Community. Among other topics, he talked about disabled people who wish to live independently, but with their families. According to the Society, they seem to have been forgot-

ten in everyone's rush to set up independent living schemes.

Keith Smith, Chairman of the Letchworth Spastics Society, was the final speaker. Keith, who is severely handicapped and unable to speak, showed a video which told how he lives independently in his own home. His life depends on outside help and friends who come in at various times to help with personal care, housework, and so on.

In the afternoon there were study groups, discussions and a question panel.

I thought that the questions for the groups were slightly misleading, eg "Living in the community – should permission be sought from parents, local authorities, residents' associations, etc?" I was hoping for someone to say, "Why should people with disabilities seek permission to live in the community?" But no one did.

All in all, a very good conference, well organised and a good attendance. The East Region prides itself on its conferences, and so it should.

Maria Brooks



# Sharing the burden of responsibility

A battered single-storey building on a particularly bleak stretch of the Battersea Park Road, London, houses a charity and a registered company called SHARE. It isn't much to look at. But what it has achieved for many people with disabilities in search of employment transcends its setting.

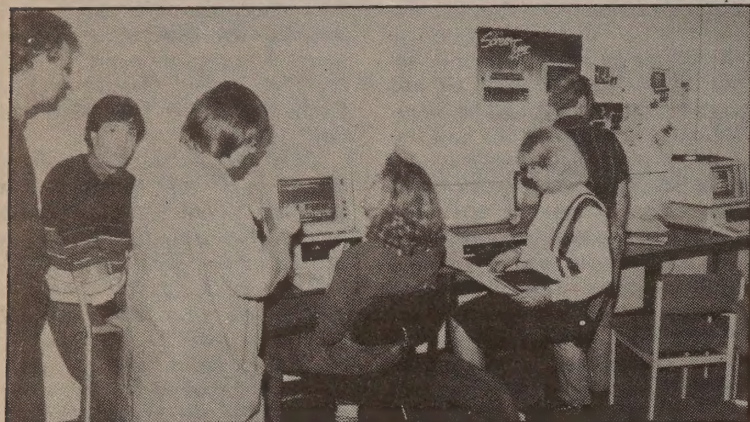
Mark Jordan is one of those people. In a wheelchair with spina bifida, he had been unemployed for 18 months since leaving school and came to SHARE in March 1984 fresh from an office skills course.

"Anything you did was just for the sake of it, whereas at SHARE you are doing the jobs for real. In fact, SHARE is my first taste of the

**The SHARE Community for employment and rehabilitation is 15 years old and has just taken on its latest group of physically disabled, mentally disabled and mentally ill trainees. Simon Crompton went to see how it works.**

model of a theory of rehabilitation. It is based on the concept of Mutual Aid Self Help, or MASH, which means using resources possessed by people co-operating to secure achievements not available to individuals working in isolation. Self help in community and freedom with responsibility are the key terms.

Simon Crompton



Trainees working on the computer project.

real world," he says.

"My horizons have been widened so that I now do things that I never dreamed I would do, including going on an activity holiday where I abseiled down a 100 foot cliff, canoed and sailed. You need trust and team spirit for this, and SHARE's main aim is to make you do things by helping each other."

Mark is now working for Wandsworth Council.

The Self Help Association for Rehabilitation and Employment (to give its full name) takes up to 50 people with disabilities who have been unemployed for 8 months or more, trains them in a variety of work skills on the premises, funds them to take other vocational courses and, most significantly, tries to give them support and motivation.

The aim is to give people enough self-confidence to approach life with a more positive attitude and, if that is what they want, to go out and get jobs. Mark's experience isn't the only one that testifies to the success of the approach - ringing round ex-clients recently, SHARE found that around 80 per cent of them now had jobs.

The organisation was founded in 1960 by Tom Hood, a Quaker who had been disabled in the war, and is his working

Chief Executive Kate Orchin believes that SHARE is unique. "We're unique in that the trainees and staff are all expected to co-operate with each other and help one another out."

Trainees, of which there are 40 at present, are referred to SHARE from the Manpower Services Commission and usually come for 3 days a week for a 12-month period. If they like SHARE they can come full-time for 4 months. Their wages - £15 a day plus a £6 bonus for good timekeeping - are paid by the MSC.

The choice of which work trainees participate in is largely theirs. There are 10 projects to choose from - computers, word processing, clerical, catering, typing, reception, wages, printing, cleaning and book-keeping - and each has its own supervisor. These are employed through the MSC's Community Programme, but their wages are topped up by SHARE's own funds which come from appeals, trusts and grants from Wandsworth Council.

SHARE's philosophy of freedom and responsibility is reflected in its organisation - notably the trainees' alliance, which meets every week and gives trainees the opportunity to discuss any grievances, work problems or personal problems.

"They can be very productive," says Maureen, trainees' committee minutes secretary. "If there is any discontent, we write off to the council of management about it."

There is also responsibility for trainees in some of the work projects. By updating the Community's unique self-help organisation information bank and producing its bi-monthly bulletin *Self Help Spotlight*, the trainees are creating something needed. Other jobs, such as serving in the canteen or the small shop seem quiet and far from demanding, but might provide options which some people prefer.

"We use a subtle form of motivation to build up confidence," says Michael Luvaglio, personnel and administrative manager, who deals with many of the personal problems. "We help people see they can't do everything, and we all have skills in different areas."

A broad range of people have to be helped to adjust and fit in with others - SHARE has seen ex-directors, academics and surgeons as well as those who have never been employed.

"We had a young man with a PhD who helped discover North Sea oil, and then became disabled in an accident," says Michael. "He'd applied for 200 jobs after that and was refused by everyone because you could see the chip on his shoulder."

"In 6 weeks he changed his attitude, because he started to realise there were people worse off than him - he saw what he had to offer and that he'd been selfish. He's earning more than ever now, having rock and dirt samples sent from all over the world."

"Sometimes you have to confront people and tell them they're using their disability selfishly," he says.

SHARE can't promise miracles, and wandering around the workshops I felt its very relaxed atmosphere might not suit everyone. People are chatting as they work, sitting around, making tea. No one cracks the whip, but the lack of work pressure seems to be deliberate: SHARE want to induce a feeling of community and belonging rather than competition and this mood is promoted by emphasising little rituals like birthdays and retirements with cards and parties. Hopefully, SHARE also proves to its trainees that this isn't the only community they have a place in.

"I looked up rehabilitation recently," says Kate Orchin, "and it means acceptance. I think that's very important - we want to help people accept themselves."

## INTERNATIONAL

### Actions speak louder than words

Debbie Ounstead reports

This year's meeting of the Executive Board of Action Européenne des Handicapés took place on the banks of the Rhine at Oberwinter last month.

AEH is a small committee with representatives from several European countries. Set up in 1981, this voluntary group aims to put pressure on the EEC to take all possible measures to improve the integration of disabled people.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Germany, Luxembourg, Britain, the Netherlands and Denmark.

Questions had been raised in the European parliament to find out what progress member countries had made on, for example, architectural measures for housing and public building, progress on integrated job opportunities and special programmes for training young peo-

ple with severe disabilities.

The answers seemed to be vague and unsatisfactory.

Discussions had taken place between Herr Hirrlinger, president of AEH, and Herr Seefeld, vice-director for economic and social affairs at the Council of Europe, about the problems of medical and professional rehabilitation, long-term unemployment among disabled persons, and the need for an identity card which is recognised in all member countries.

The continuing effect of the economic recession is apparent in many EEC countries where reductions in social security and social legislation have been taking place.

But AEH has learned that the EEC works slowly: sometimes the interests of individual member states conflict with the broad interests of the EEC. Until AEH has permanent, paid staff it seems unlikely that it can make much impact.

At the moment AEH is better at disseminating good practice in integration than it is at lobbying for change.

#### LESBIAN & GAY UNIT

### Unit Workers (6)

(Haringey PO1 - Salary on a scale from £11,937-£12,825)

### Senior Administrative Officer

(SO1 - Salary on a scale from £10,632-£11,295)

### Principal Committee Secretary

(Haringey PO1 - Salary on a scale from £11,937-£12,825)

All the salaries quoted include £657 London Weighting.

Haringey Council is committed to equal opportunities. It has already begun to work for a fair deal for the lesbians and gay men who live, work or study in the Borough. A Sub-Committee is to be established to act as a link between the Council and the lesbian and gay communities.

We now want to recruit a team to co-ordinate and develop initiatives designed to ensure that Haringey provides services which reflect the needs and wishes of lesbians and gay men in the Borough.

All applicants must have direct experience of the lesbian or gay communities. Within the team there needs to be experience of the black, minority ethnic and disabled communities and all applicants must be committed to challenging discrimination on grounds of disability, race and sex. Formal qualifications are not necessary, although the Senior Administrative Officer must have previous administrative experience and be able to type. For the Unit Worker posts, experience in voluntary work, or training, or local government would be useful, but not essential.

Applicants for the post of Principal Committee Secretariat should have experience of committee work at a Senior level, preferably in a local authority or similar body, be fully conversant with Committee procedures and be able to work on their own initiative. You will attend the Sub-Committee as the Borough Secretary's representative, and will also act as a link with the six community based sub-groups which will report to the Sub-Committee. There will also be other duties within the Committee Group in which this Sub-Committee is based (Community Affairs/Education/Social Services). Attendance at evening meetings will be required, for which overtime is paid (or time-off in lieu).

Application forms and written details for the posts of Unit Workers, and the Senior Administrative Officer are available from Angela O'Connor, Community Affairs Service, London Borough of Haringey, 35 Station Road, Wood Green, London, N.22. Telephone 01-881 3000 Ext. 3526.

Information is also available on tape, in the following languages: Greek, Turkish, Bengali, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Mandarin. For an application form and job description for the post of Principal Committee Secretary telephone 01-881 6065 (24-hour answering service) quoting reference no: MS G/L

Closing date: 20th December, 1985

**Haringey**   
Progress with humanity

Haringey is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome your application which will be considered on merit, irrespective of race, marital status, sex or any disability you may have.

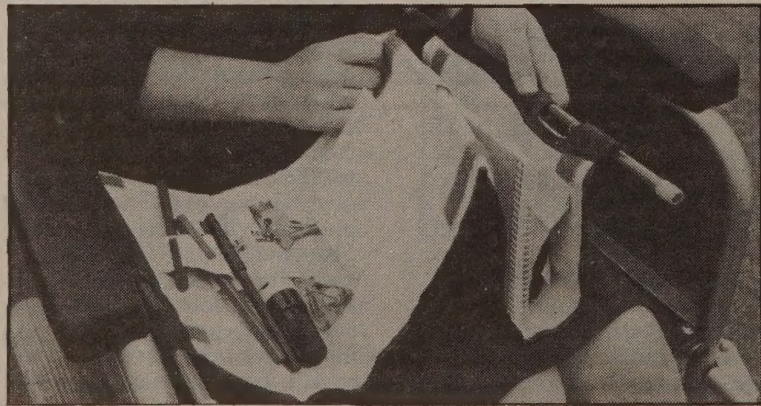
## A bright idea for wheelchair users

Two fourteen-year-olds, Georgina Williams and Clare Spencer, from Gwent, have designed a "fold-a-bag" for people who use wheelchairs.

Instead of having to reach behind you or hold a heavy bag on your knee, you just unclip one handle of the bag from the underside of an arm rest, open it out like a concertina, and if necessary slip it to the other arm rest. Inside there are pockets, loops and slots for keys, money, make-up, pens, pad and a spectacle case.

The girls thought up the idea when Georgina's mother had an accident and started to use a wheelchair. The bag has been tested by residents at a centre for disabled people.

The bag was one of 11 winning designs in this year's



The Fold-a-Bag, unfolded.

Schools Design Prize organised by the Design Council and sponsored by Thorn EMI.

HRH Princess Anne presented the prizes on 12 November. The girls received a total of £150 and

their school, Monmouth Comprehensive, has the option of a cheque for £200 or a Thorn EMI Ferguson video recorder.

Now they have to find a manufacturer.



# Child abuse as a cause of disability

Vincent J Fontana describes the American experience\*

The maltreatment of children throughout the United States appears to be increasing in spite of all our efforts.

Today countless thousands of American children are being permanently injured, physically and mentally, as a result of physical and verbal abuse inflicted by parents and caretakers.

The National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C. reports that over one million children are being abused or neglected in the United States. At least 100,000 are being sexually abused; 300,000 are being psychologically abused; and an estimated 4,000 children die as a result of their abuse and neglect.

These figures are cause for

**"One million children are being abused or neglected in the United States."**

deep concern, especially since these statistics reflect only the reported cases of an even more widespread social problem.

The incidence of child abuse is increasing at the rate of 15 per cent annually throughout the United States.

We ask ourselves, why is child abuse increasing in spite of all the professional efforts being made to prevent and treat this disease? Perhaps it is better recognition by physicians, teachers and social workers and more frequent reporting of child abuse cases by relatives, friends and neighbours.

However, other factors must be considered. A million adolescents become pregnant each year. Of these, approximately 600,000 give birth and keep their child.

Over a million children each year are now being propelled into single parent families by the epidemic of divorces and separations.

The increase in drug and alcohol addiction and the economic conditions of inflation, recession, unemployment and poverty bring with them despair, anger and depression causing a confused, insecure and frightened parent to strike out at what is closest to them, namely their child.

Our society's back-up for the inadequate, isolated parent who is unable to cope is often nonexistent and the "bail-outs" provided in the past by the relatives of the extended family have practically disappeared.

One of the most recent advances in our understanding of why child maltreatment occurs has been the development of what professionals call the

\* This is an edited version of a paper presented at an international conference organised by United Cerebral Palsy of New York City Inc in September. Full proceedings of the conference will be available from UCP, 122 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010, USA.

"stress model." The stress model depicts child abuse as a consequence of a reaction to various stresses parents experience.

Three components are usually necessary for child abuse and battering to occur: the socially isolated, potentially abusive parent; unrealistic expectations of a "different" or "special" child; and a sudden crisis.

In the "special" or "different" children category are the more vulnerable low birthweight infants and handicapped children. Low birthweight infants though only comprising about 10 per cent of newborns, comprise approximately 20 per cent of the physically abused population of children. Research suggests that a major factor may be the impairment of maternal-infant bonding due to prolonged hospitalisation of the child.

The term "handicapped children" covers a wide range of disabilities ranging from the hyperactive child to the developmentally disabled. These children are "different" and within the constellation of potentially abusive parents under stress and crisis situations they tend to be targets and victims of abuse. The mere physical care of a child with a handicap can be exceedingly taxing to the best of parents under the best of circumstances.

Gil found that 29 per cent of 6,000 confirmed cases of child abuse had some type of developmental disability. In a national

**"Low birthweight infants though only comprising about 10 per cent of newborns, comprise approximately 20 per cent of the physically abused population of children."**

survey cited by Chotiner and Lehr, 58 per cent of the abused children in a Parents Anonymous programme had "developmental problems" prior to the abuse incident. Nearly 70 per cent of 97 abused children had previous mental or physical deviation in the study by the Denver Department of Welfare (Johnson and Morse).

The maltreatment of children as a cause of disability is another very serious problem not often recognised by child care professionals. Many studies have confirmed the high incidence of prenatal and postnatal developmental, mental, physical and emotional disabilities resulting from inflicted abuse and neglect.

A parent's inability or unwillingness to provide for the essential needs of an infant can result in malnutrition, "failure to thrive," and "maternal deprivation syndrome." The early abuse and neglect of an infant can therefore lead to serious impairments in the future emotional and physical development of the child.

Infants and children who exhibit physical and mental retardation should be thoroughly studied for possible evidence of maltreatment. In a study group at The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 50 per cent

**"50 per cent of 30 injured babies diagnosed as abused showed evidence of retarded development. In a group of 83 non-abused injured children, 19 per cent were found to be retarded."**

of 30 injured babies diagnosed as abused showed evidence of retarded development. In a group of 83 non-abused injured children, 19 per cent were found to be retarded.

In the past, handicapped children were most often children whose disabilities were caused by a single insult to a normal child - such as the deafness caused by ear infections or post-german measles. Today, the major childhood disabilities can be genetic in origin, caused by some biochemical deficiency or due to inflicted or accidental trauma.

In the inflicted or accidental trauma category, head injuries account for a vast number of disabilities.

When an infant is seen with evidence of bruising on parts of the body as well as the head, a diagnosis of "battering" should be considered and a search made for other indicators of abuse such as present and past fractures, poor housing conditions, unemployment of parents - marital discord, drug and alcohol addiction.

Fortunately, in the majority of cases of head injury the child recovers without permanent disability. The others are left with permanent damage, cortical blindness due to damage to the occipital lobe, unilateral or bilateral hemiplegia or a cortical speech defect.

Permanent visual damage is a common manifestation in the "battered child syndrome". It should be considered in all cases of severe retinal disease and optic atrophy in early childhood.

A less obvious form of child abuse, the "Whiplash Shaken Infant Syndrome" described by Dr John Caffey, can produce effects of permanent brain damage and retardation.

Frustrated and angry parents oftentimes discipline an infant by lifting him by upper arms and shaking vigorously. The high vulnerability of the infant's head, brain, and eyes to trauma frequently causes mental retardation, permanent brain damage and intraocular bleeding. A diagnostic contradiction is the absence of signs of external trauma to the head in the presence of intracranial haemorrhage. In these cases a "battered baby" is

in reality a "shaken baby."

The abuse inflicted on a child need not be physical to be damaging. The emotional and medical neglect of a child causes equally serious and often chronic disabilities that are preventable. Children who have experienced emotional neglect and deprivation, or are neglected by being shunted from foster home to foster home suffer irreparable emotional damage resulting in the psychologically crippled "runaway" and "throwaway" child who engages in anti-social and criminal acts.

Professionals dealing with children "at risk" must be aware and skilful in recognizing the causes and results of child maltreatment.

Childhood disabilities due to abuse and neglect can be prevented by making a thorough assessment of family stresses, the parent's potential for abuse, a determination of the ongoing risks to the "special" child and by providing emotional and educational support to begin the helping process.

High-risk parents of high-risk children should be given counseling sessions to prepare them for dealing with a "special" or "difficult" child. They should be taught parenting skills, early, soon after birth while the mother and child are still under care in the office or hospital.

Parents must have someone to whom they can turn in time of crisis. To this end "parent helpline" and self-help groups such as Parents Anonymous are useful.

Parents should also understand that if some crisis occurs at home, they can call the public health nurse, a neighbour, friend, or relative or use the Crisis Nursery in the community which will enable them to get away from the child for a few days. They should also be aware of any respite or temporary shelter which will enable them to receive immediate intervention in order to prevent any incident of child abuse.

We must recognize the social and economic pressures on

**"A less obvious form of child abuse, the 'Whiplash Shaken Infant Syndrome', can produce residual effects of permanent brain damage and retardation."**

parents today and work toward developing preventative human support programmes that will preserve and strengthen rather than destroy and weaken the family unit.

We must call for and support programmes for parenting both in the school system and in the community, support a type of national health insurance and social service programme that will guarantee children their safety and well being.

## INTERNATIONAL

NSPCC



Vincent J Fontana, MD, FAAP, is medical director and paediatrician-in-chief of the New York Foundling Hospital Centre for Parent and Child Development, and professor of clinical paediatrics at New York University College of Medicine. His book, *Somewhere a Child is Crying*, was published in the USA in 1983.

● In *Trends in Child Abuse* (July 1984), the latest report of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children covering cases between 1977 and 1982, physical or mental handicap was least likely to cause stress leading to abuse (2-3 per cent), while low birthweight was over-represented among cases of physical injury, failure to thrive, sexual abuse and neglect. The most frequent cause of death (47.2 per cent) was head injury.

The latest figures for child abuse, 1983, show an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year, yet the severity of injuries showed a drop since 1977, from 17.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent of all children notified. This suggests that abused children are being recognised and referred for help at a much earlier stage than in the past.

The Spastics Society is doing some research in this area.

## A trip through the White House kitchen

On a recent trip round some major American cities, Executive Council member, Bill Hargreaves, was impressed to find so many tourist attractions geared to disabled people with ramps and wheelchairs at the ready.

"The White House was totally accessible - even if we did have to go through the kitchens to reach the State rooms", he said.

Bill Hargreaves was on a ten day "whistle-stop" tour with a group of British and German journalists and communicators, courtesy of the Society for the Advancement of Travel for the

Handicapped, World Airways (which provides special care for disabled people) and the United States Government Department of Travel, Tourism and Commerce.

It was obvious to him that US legislation on access and communication was working and giving disabled people opportunities they do not have in the UK.

"America has proved that disabled people will use facilities if they are made available", he said. "Their money is as good as anyone else's."

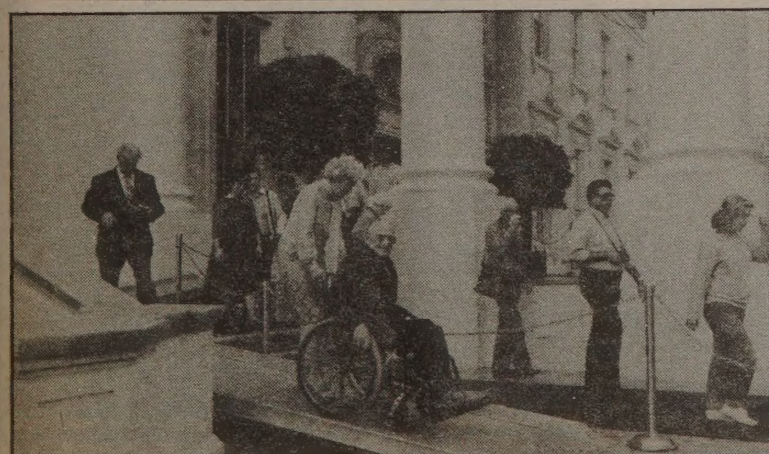
But legislation on employ-

ment and anti-discrimination seems to work less well.

According to the disabled people and parents Bill Hargreaves met, jobs are available in the public sector but rarely in the private sector.

"People find it very difficult to prove they did not get a job because of their disability", he said. "One blind person's comment on the anti-discrimination legislation was: 'It stinks.'"

Bill Hargreaves will be writing about his trip in the holiday issue next month.



Bill and Mary Hargreaves leave the White House by ramp.



# AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . .

## Chairman urges Society to promote itself more persuasively

"The basic problems do not change much, but we must be prepared to examine any and every way of making sure that we present ourselves persuasively and distinctly," said Mrs Joyce Smith, chairman of The Spastics Society, last month.

She was presenting her annual report at the AGM. About 450 people were there.

She pointed to some recent successful attempts at promoting the Society: an award-winning poster advertising campaign; a Spring mailing which also won an award in competition with big names like Nestlé and Sun Alliance; and the expansion of *Disability Now*.

One of the Society's most important jobs, thought Mrs Smith, was to make it easier for disabled people to use their own resources and find opportunities to integrate into the community, rather than remaining passive receivers of services.

"The Spastics Society is changing from being 'the provider' to the few to becoming 'the enabler' for many - a wider and more demanding role", she said.

She mentioned the new Alpha Committee, composed of people with cerebral palsy, which advises the Executive Council; the decision to provide more independent living accommodation over the next 10 years, and the opening of Jack Howarth House in Oxford for severely-disabled school-leavers.



Mrs Joyce Smith, Tony Newton, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, and Ken Coulbeck, Executive Council member.

The Society's plans had, she admitted, been affected by government policies such as the reduction of the rate support grant, rate capping and the forthcoming abolition of the GLC and metropolitan authorities.

"We have to encourage the Government to help fund the change from institutionalisation into the community", she said.

She also urged the Society to maintain pressure on local authorities for a better all-round deal for adult physically-handicapped people.

Lack of suitable employment opportunities for disabled people concerned her. She referred to the working party set up to look at the future of work centres in the Society.

At regional level, Mrs Smith was glad to see more social workers being employed by the Society and new development officers to support and help local groups. New young parent groups had been formed over the past year.

Mrs Smith made a special

appeal to the Society to support the Executive Council in fostering the work of Cerebral Palsy Overseas and the International Cerebral Palsy Society.

She had a special word for the disabled cyclists who have recently returned from Poland. "This magnificent effort focuses attention on what, with spirit, endurance and teamwork, can be accomplished by people who are categorised as 'disabled'", she said.

Mrs Smith endorsed the need to devote money to research into the causes and treatment of cerebral palsy. She congratulated Professor Paul Polani on winning an award for his contribution to paediatrics and genetics.

Finally, she thanked many people for their work and support over the year: the Society's patron, HRH the Duchess of Kent; its president, the Duke of Westminster, who has agreed to continue for another 3 years; the Scottish Spastics Society; Top Ten Promotions, as well as staff and volunteers.

## Society's income has doubled in 5 years - but mind the goal posts!

The Spastics Society's total income has doubled in 5 years, from £15,113,000 in 1979-80, to £32,645,000 in 1984-85.

Its net assets have increased by almost £6 million and its deficit declined from £823,000 to £206,000.

This was the legacy of Bill Huddleston, outgoing Honorary Treasurer, to his successor, Douglas Shapland, at the AGM last month.

"In terms of our understanding of 5 years ago, I can say that the finances of the Society are sound and healthy," said Bill Huddleston.



Douglas Shapland



Bill Huddleston

"But over the same period the goalposts have changed. There are now real

problems and opportunities and expectations of service which ago we didn't even dare to which are now being addressed some cases already being met.

In the financial year 1984-85, the Society's total expenditure increased by £2,798,000, much services to cp people, but half attributable to inflation.

The total income increased over £½ million, but over £350,000 that went to meet the increased national and regional appeals.

While fees and grants paid authorities to Society schools rose by £2,415,000, a big gap, over £15,819,000 remains between the cost of provided and what local authorities will pay.

"It hardly augurs well for par between voluntary bodies and statutory authorities when The Society is expected to subsidise and national government to do that it does," said Bill Huddleston.



Right: Alex Moira, Harold Sharpe, Tracy Hampson, John Cox, Derek Ashcroft, David and Eileen Ashcroft.

## Executive Council election



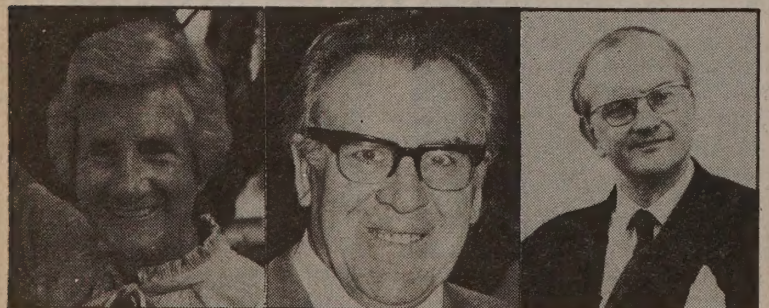
Two new members, one renewed member, of the Executive Council. From left: Ian Hildreth, Andrew Berry and Richard Sharp.

One member of the Executive Council had resigned and 5 sought re-election. Derek Ashcroft, John Byworth and Valerie Lang were successful. Three new members were also elected: Andrew Berry, Jan Hildreth and Richard Sharp.

Chairman: Mrs Joyce Smith

Vice-Chairmen: Derek Ashcroft, Bill Huddleston

Hon. Treasurer: Douglas Shapland

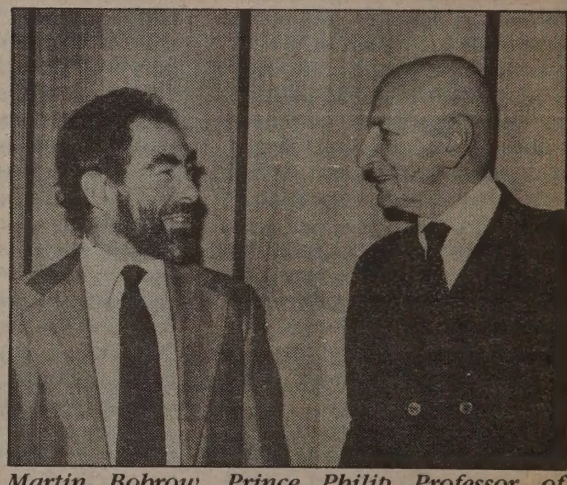


The three ex-members of the Executive Council are Dorothy Cottle (who resigned for personal reasons), Iorwerth Thomas and Adrian Wright. Mrs Smith

has expressed her thanks to them all for the work they have done, especially Iorwerth Thomas who has been a member for 15 years.



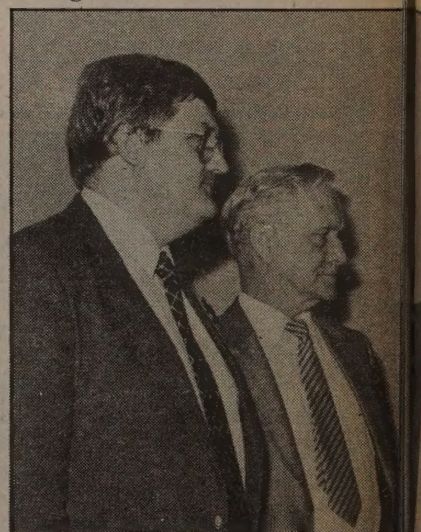
Jane Thompson, a Spastics Society social work co-ordinator (left) with Janice and Anthony Hacker from South East London, who came to the AGM as observers.



Martin Bobrow, Prince Philip Professor of Paediatric Research at Guy's Hospital (left) with Professor Paul Polani, his predecessor, winner of the 1985 Baly Medal for distinguished contributions to paediatrics and genetics.



Cheerful trio, from left, Jennie Woods, appeals co-ordinator for the East Region; Annabel Whittet, chairman designate of the East Region; Penny Rigby, acting regional manager of East Region.



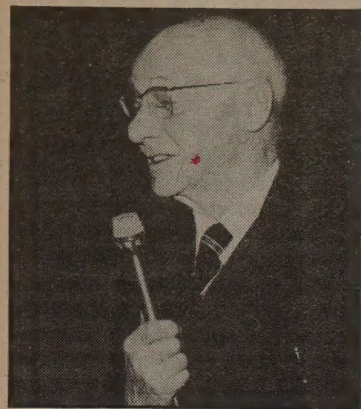
Welsh group: from left, Dellwyn Jones, man of Wales; Tony Turner, new chairman of Wales; and Liz Roberts from the Wales Region.



AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . . AGM . . .

## The questions people ask

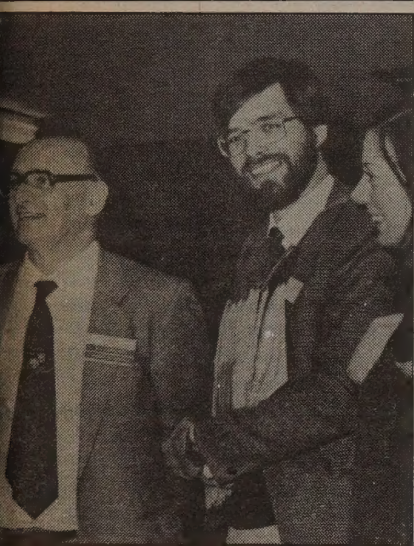
Issues raised from the floor this year included housing, discrimination, the name and image of The Spastics Society, the Society's contact with GPs, the education of young disabled people after the age of 19 and more support for affiliated groups.



### Patron's Award

**Kenneth Headon**, chairman of the Sale Altrincham and District Spastics Society, received the Patron's award and a big thank you from the chairman for his contribution to the Society over 21 years.

In reply, he said, "I feel that anything I have done is just one of the items of work which is done by so many volunteers . . . I think we just look at what we can do, get our heads down and get on with it and that is all I can recommend you to do . . . there's far too much talking today, let us get on with the action".



Bob McGowen belongs to the Liverpool Spastics Fellowship, one of the first affiliated. Bob has been chairman for years.



Gwyn John, chairman of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society, is regional officer.

In the morning, **Alex Moira**, chairman of the Habinteg Housing Association, asked **Tony Newton** why only 1 per cent of the Housing Corporation's budget went on integrated housing for disabled people, compared with 39 per cent for Old Age Pensioners - a miniscule proportion, he said, when the number of disabled people is far from miniscule.

**Tony Newton** replied that the distinction between the 2 groups was slightly artificial - many of the problems of disability were identical to those of old age. Nevertheless, he admitted that for disabled people below pensionable age it was legitimate to ask if the balance was correct.

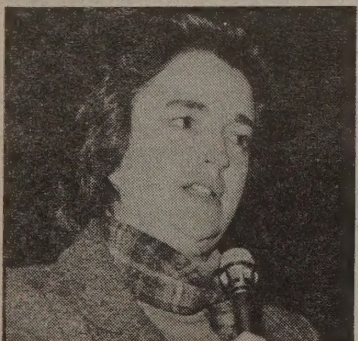
**Andrew Berry**, a new member of the Executive Council, asked what the Government policy was on anti-discrimination. Mr Newton said that the Government was totally opposed to discrimination, but because of problems of definition, anti-discrimination legislation could lead to endless inconclusive legal actions. The existing law, such as building regulations, the Education Act, and the Telecommunications Act, which could genuinely combat discrimination, should be used instead, he said.

### Disagreement about the word "spastic"

After the Marketing Director had presented the results of The Spastics Society's market research, **Hedley Chappell**, chairman of the Portsmouth and District Spastics Society, said, "I am not at all sure that The Spastics Society can resuscitate any good from the name 'spastic'".

He said that the word and the image created in yearbooks could create the wrong sort of image for the Society. A paediatrician friend wouldn't have society yearbooks anywhere near his hospital, and the term "spastic" was decried generally by the medical profession, he said.

**Monica Chennery**, chairman of the newly-formed South Devon CP Society for Disabled People, found the best way to



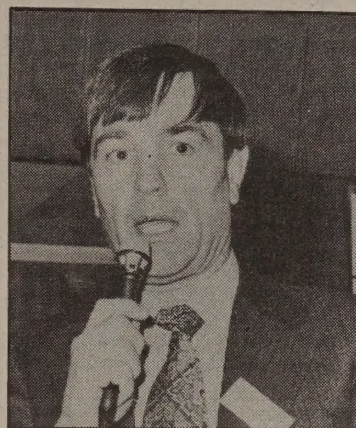
Monica Chennery

reach parents was to avoid "spastic" in the title. "Parents aren't even particularly keen on the word cp or cerebral palsy" - they've got disabled children, handicapped children and they've got children that need help and information," she said.

**Bill Hargreaves**, a member of the Executive Council, on the other hand, pleaded "Let us get this label in perspective. What has the word spastic achieved? . . . It has brought to the public forefront the needs of a body of children whose needs were previously not understood nor known about." Whatever the name of the Society, it will eventually be bastardised because of

the nature of the condition, he said.

**Andrew Berry** wanted to know why, if there was a groundswell of opinion against the word "spastic", most local groups had not changed their name yet. He also suggested that some thought and research ought to be given to the question of whether the Society should aim to care for more than just spastic people, and a change of name might reflect this.



Hedley Chappell

### More money for public relations

**Ian Dawson Shepherd** said that the whole debate on whether the name should be changed only reflected the Society's lack of public relations policy, which has created the present confusion in the public mind. "The question is, is the Executive Council prepared to a) make out a policy on public relations, and b) spend enough money to make their PR work - And by enough money I mean £1 million plus a year, because unless it does that, everything that you have just said will mean nothing at all - you won't be able to change the name, you won't be able to change people's opinions; you won't be able to do anything and the Society will simply grow in the public's mind more and more old-fashioned."

**Denise Bloomfield**, chairman of The London Region's Alpha Advisory Committee, asked for a Society poster which portrayed disabled people who were not in wheelchairs. She also said that in her experience many parents of handicapped children found The Spastics Society unapproachable.

### How to improve contact with GPs

**Valerie Ward** from Rochdale raised the point that paediatricians and GPs should be more honest with parents, explain to them the different varieties of cerebral palsy, and know that children with cerebral palsy have potential.

**John Cox** replied that the Society's Medical Advisory Committee was looking into the possibility of producing films on cerebral palsy which could become part of the curriculum for young doctors.

**Camilla Howard**, a physiotherapist and chairman of the Braintree and North West Essex Spastics Society, said that her group made many efforts to contact GPs - but out of 40 invited to a party, only one turned up. She also said that it was often impossible to diagnose children when they are very small, and parents don't want their children labelled unless it is absolutely

certain what the matter is.

**Ken Smith**, Alpha development and research officer, said that, through his own GP, he and his wife had been to talk to post-graduate GPs about attitudes in the medical profession. "I feel that if we got more onto the ground level of training with GPs and the medical profession generally, we would win a great deal more respect for the Society's name," he said.

### Education post-19 - how can the law be changed?

After John Belcher had talked about care in the community, **Ian Dick** of the Meldreth Manor School Parent's Association was keen to know exactly how the Society would put into practice its expressed desire to extend education facilities for disabled young people from the age of 19 to 25.

**Freddie Green**, the Society's director of education, emphasised that education up to the age of 25 should be made available but not compulsory. A change in the law is essential, he said because there is not statutory duty to provide education beyond the age of 19.

"The way we get a change in the law is through you, and the responsibility is very firmly yours, to cajole, to persuade, - I don't care what you do - but get at your local authority representatives, because they are the power holders and they are the people who do influence people like Tony Newton to eventually get a change in the law."

**Mrs Nicklin** from the Central Northumberland Spastics Society, said that her 11 year-old child is in a special care class with children up to the age of 19 because there is no provision for disabled children in the area. "So if the school leaving age is going to be

older still, are we going to have 11 year-olds with 24 year-olds?" she said.

**Freddie Green** answered that the level of educational service you get for special needs still depends largely on where you live, and individuals have to press for improvements in services at local level.

**Frances Sherritt** of PUSH was concerned that the Society should make sure that education is available between 16 and 19 before worrying about extending education to the age of 25.

Answering, **Freddie Green** told the meeting that, following pressure from the voluntary sector, the Department of Education and Science was about to issue a circular of guidance to all local authorities on access to education for the 16 to 19s.



Denise Bloomfield

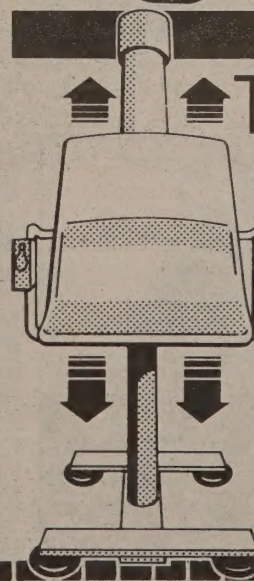
### Support for local groups is needed

**Carol Myer**, principal of the White Lodge Centre, wanted The Spastics Society to ensure that "our structure is strong enough to support our groups throughout England, so that they can offer to our people the things which are needed through partnership with local authorities."

**John Cox** said: "Such is our agreement with you that we introduced the development officers to serve the local groups this year."

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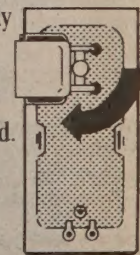


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## OUTLOOK

### Art

## Art of the Handicapped Child

Pablo Picasso once said "When I was a child I could paint like a man. Now I've spent my life trying to paint like a child again".

Looking round the Art of the Handicapped Child Exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall, I couldn't help being reminded of Picasso on several occasions.

Paul Young's "The Horse" especially, its tiny head a combined front and side view, had the simple confidence of line and the ambiguity of one of Picasso's bull lithographs.

Walter Rollins' "Nude on a Couch" was more Matisse, but had an equal directness of line and colour.

Paula Hunter's "Sea and Rocks" showed a restraint of colour reminiscent of Picasso's blue period, and an emphasis on different textures and brushstrokes.

The parallels with "legitimate" art only went to prove that an



Television personality Matthew Kelly presents Helen Grassie with a highly commended prize for her picture "Horse Riding" at the opening of the exhibition.

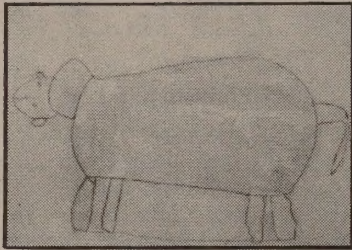
exhibition like this can be as varied, challenging and enjoyable as an afternoon at the Tate Gallery if only you can rid yourself of the idea that children's art (and especially disabled children's art) is charming, peripheral and not worth con-

sideration as art.

Organised by the Invalid Children's Art Association, the exhibition consists of the finalists in the Association's annual art competition. Work was submitted from special schools all over the British Isles, by children with



Christopher Riddings, winner in the under 12's figures/animals/objects class, shows his Alley Cat to Matthew Kelly.



Paul Young's painting of a horse.

permanent physical, mental or emotional handicaps.

Some of the exhibits were achieved using feet, mouth or head, or with the aid of a computer in the case of Terry Hensman's dazzling landscapes.

Animals inevitably formed the subject in a large number of paintings, notably Christopher Riddings' scrawny and freely-painted "Alley Cat", Helen Grassie's "Horse Riding" and Robin Wetmore's burning bright "Tiger".

These were all painted, but it was good to see many of the exhibitors trying out more ambitious techniques, like Anne Higgins with her intricate blue and black linocut of a seagull, and Chantel Bagot's unusual and effective collage portrait, using different tones torn out from newspapers.

Simon Crompton

*The Art of the Handicapped Child will be at the Birmingham Shopping Centre on 2-7 December and the Heswall Library, Wirral on 6-11 January. It then travels to Northern Ireland in May and Tokyo in August.*



A collage of a face made from torn newspapers by Chantel Bagot.

## Books

### Easy to Make Aids for Elderly People

by Don Caston

(Souvenir Press, Human Horizons series, hardback £8.95, paperback £5.95)

"As I grow older I am beginning to feel the need for a 'little-something-or-other' to help me do a number of jobs that not so long ago I did without thinking".

That is how Don Caston introduces his latest book, *Easy to Make Aids for Elderly People*. It is a worthy successor to his other excellent books, *Easy to Make Aids for Your Handicapped Child* and *Easy to Make Toys for Your Handicapped Child*.

He gives the reader some good, simple, inexpensive ideas for making life easier in each room of the home and in the garden, ideas that will help people to retain their independence.

For each idea there is a shopping list and instructions. Clear, annotated drawings by Joan Thompson will help prevent mistakes, though some knowledge of woodwork would, I think, be helpful.

As Don Caston says, some of these aids are available through the DHSS and appliance suppliers, but to have them made specially for you means that they will be exactly tailored to your needs.

He thinks that family or friends could make them, or that they could be a project for pupils on a technical design course.

Aids like these are made up by occupational therapist workshops. Both workshops and day centres would find the book useful as well as individual elderly or disabled people.

A good Christmas present.

Wendy Chandler  
Occupational Therapist

### Someone To Care For

by Alan Hendry

(Privately printed, and obtainable from Alan Hendry, Milltara, Woodrow Lane, Aslacton, Norwich, Norfolk NR15 2JE)



Lindsay Gladwin was born with a tumour on her spine. Throughout her life, which ended when she was 15 in 1982, she was in and out of hospital. She suffered some gruesome therapy to improve her spine, but ended up in a wheelchair, paralysed from the neck down. Furthermore, she was orphaned at the age of 4.

This is not just the story of a girl who made the most of her life with humour and courage, who wrote poetry, worked for "O" levels, raised money for a Blue Peter campaign, went to Florida, and won The Spastics Society's achievement award a few months before she died.

It is also the story of the aunt and uncle who, their own family nearly grown-up, took on Lindsay and cared for her for 11

years; of how with the help of their religious faith they coped with the emotional strain and the medical emergencies and did a wonderful job.

Alan Hendry could find no publisher for his manuscript; it was said there were too many books of this kind around already. So he took the plunge and published it himself.

It is worth reading. He captures the tension of an emergency, the horror of seeing Lindsay being stretched in "halo-pelvic traction", and the everyday things, like holding a child at the window and pointing out the stars - the first time Lindsay in her new glasses had seen them.

"Can you see the stars? I asked. 'I can't see stars', she replied, 'but I can see a lot of pin-pricks in the sky'."

Looking after Lindsay changed the Hendrys' lives. They moved out of London to a bungalow in Norwich and Alan Hendry eventually took early retirement from the civil service to help at home. Vera became an expert in caring for a severely disabled person day in, day out, and today that expertise is used to provide short-term care for severely handicapped people in the Norwich area.

Not only is this a moving book for an adult; it appeals to children too.

My 10-year-old daughter read it straight through. When I asked her what she thought of it, she said "It was really good, interesting. Lindsay didn't have much of a life but she did so many things and always liked to help other people." Pause. "Do you have any more books like this?"

Mary Wilkinson

*The profits from this book will be shared between The Spastics Society and the Les Evans Holiday Fund for Sick and Handicapped Children.*

### Breath of Life

by Ann Armstrong

(British Broadcasting Corporation, 1985)

Ann contracted polio in 1955. She was unable to lift a finger and dependent on an iron lung to breathe for her. When she developed pneumonia she couldn't even cough.

She suffered so much that she wanted to die.

Months later, she was moved to a long-stay hospital ward run by the kind of Sister who only exists in nightmares.

Ann was often left alone to worry about her iron lung failing, knowing that its alarm bell was frequently disconnected.

All this time she had not seen her two small sons, who were staying with separate sets of relatives.

Her husband refused to accept her offer of divorce and Ann strengthened her resolve: "... I can't concede victory to a mingy virus". She determined to reunite her family.

The Sister tried to quash any attempt at independence, but Ann had several allies, including a man in the next ward who sent her roses.

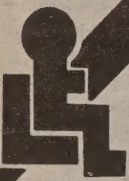
Fortunately, Ann's story ends happily, because she won her fight to return home.

I found her account very moving. The only disappointment is that she touches so briefly on her new career as a writer. A post-script informs us that she was awarded an MBE for journalism in 1968.

Helen Gray

*The book is available on loan from The Spastics Society's Library at Park Crescent, Tel 01-636 5020, ext 241.*

*Continued on next page*



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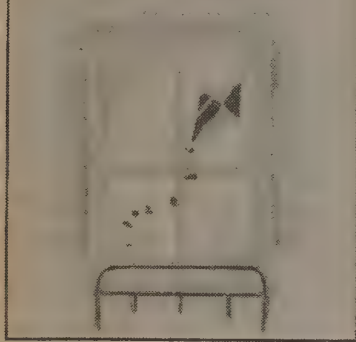
## OUTLOOK

### Books

Continued from previous page.

## TO FLY A KITE

Elizabeth Webster



### To Fly a Kite

by Elizabeth Webster  
(Piatkus Books, £8.95)

For those who enjoy light romantic fiction and are prepared to take it with a large pinch of salt, *To Fly a Kite* will make pleasant reading.

It tells the tale of how 18 year-old Ellie, living for years in an old-people's home after being abandoned by her parents at 9 and recovering from a near-fatal accident (how's that for starters!) meets the moody, temperamental Ross Mallory. He is a brilliant concert pianist, left frustrated and disheartened at the slow recovery he is making from a stroke.

Ellie, so bright and delighting in life, brings hope and a new purpose into his life. But it is not to last, for he loses her as a result of a misunderstood conversation.

Ellie runs away and ends up as a dancer with a rather unconvincing rock band (the Ziggerats), and also copes admirably with a startling number of assaults from people in this new-found, big bad world.

And does Ross find her again? That would be telling.

Kathy Johnson

### Metal Jam: The Story of a Diabetic

by Theresa McLean  
(Hodder & Stoughton, £6.95, paperback)

The title of this book comes from the peculiar after-taste of artificial sweeteners that are found in a variety of sugar-free foods which often supplement the diet of people with diabetes.

Despite the fact that 1 in 100 people in Britain are diabetic, the public awareness of this hidden disability is often very limited.

Before the discovery of insulin in 1921, diabetics were considered incurable and unemployed. Even today there are certain employment restrictions.

Theresa McLean's book sets out to give a wider understanding of diabetes. As well as explaining the advances in diabetic management and research in the 12 years since she became a diabetic at the age of 21, Theresa gives a brilliant insight into what it is like to be diabetic.

What this means is to walk a tightrope of balance and control every single day - a balance between having too much sugar in the blood and not enough, as well as suffering the consequences of each if the balance is lost.

Theresa is graphic in her description of what it is like to live with "the Beast" - a hypoglycemic attack, when there is too

much insulin in the body caused by over-exercise or not enough food. The results are severe mental confusion and distortion of personality.

Often the diabetic in "hypo" is mistaken for being drunk, and will also refuse food or sugar which are the very things needed.

The kind of control required to keep an experience like this in check means that a diabetic can never be totally carefree about life again. Food becomes a medicine that rules every hour of the day; each mouthful must be weighed and judged against daily injections.

However, Theresa also sees the humorous side of her life-style: being mistaken for a drug addict in public toilets; being embarrassed at a dinner party when there is nothing to eat or when a guest remarks on her choosiness; having family and friends misunderstand her needs when she *has* to eat sugar!

Theresa's story is written in an easy, down-to-earth style. Many of her own personal experiences and feelings mirror my own, so I found it is very realistic, although some passages were over-dramatic and others contradictory.

Even so, I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is a diabetic or who knows one. The insight gained would prove invaluable in understanding this invisible condition.

Debra Ziegler

### Cromwell's Glasses

by Holly Keller  
(Julia MacRae Books, hardback £4.95)

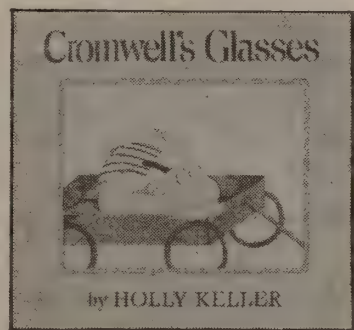
Having to wear glasses is nothing compared to wearing calipers or being in a frog plaster. But some children feel bad about it.

*Cromwell's Glasses* will set them right.

Cromwell is a rabbit with big feet and waggly ears who is teased and humiliated by his brothers and sisters because he cannot see properly to play games.

Eventually he is old enough for an eye test and gets his glasses, but he is still teased.

It is only when someone outside the family starts on him that one of his sisters takes his side, plays with him, and they all dis-



cover how well he can catch a ball or climb the jungle gym.

"I think your glasses are going to be okay", says Cynthia, the sister.

"Uh huh", Cromwell agrees.

Mary Wilkinson

### Motoring and Mobility for Disabled People

by Ann Darnbrough and Derek Kincade

(The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. Tel: 01-637 5400 £3.00)

Mobility, and more especially motoring, are difficult subjects to write about. There are literally hundreds of different pieces of factual information on travel, concessions, the law and the various good and bad points of vehicles.

But Ann Darnbrough and Derek Kincade have achieved the



impossible; they have brought everything together under one cover. Besides information on cars, driving instructors and the law with regard to the disabled driver, they tell us about holiday motoring, giving very good details on ferries and how to take your car abroad. There is even information on incontinence wear.

This book also contains the first comprehensive list of Dial-A-Rides throughout Britain, including a description of vehicles used and charges. A very useful comparison.

I think it would make an ideal present for anybody who drives or is thinking about driving - or indeed any group welfare officer who may be asked for advice on the subject. At only £3.00 for 702 pages it is remarkable value for money.

John Byworth

### Management of the Motor Disorders of Children with Cerebral Palsy

Edited by David Scrutton  
(Spastics International Medical Publications, 1984, £8 from Blackwells Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EL)

There are many ways of treating cerebral palsy and each can make a contribution to the care of children with this disorder. Very few professionals can claim to be unbiased in their advice about therapy, since it is almost impossible to be familiar with all the systems which have been devised.

The purpose of this volume is to bring together information about the most widely used methods of treatment.

There is a valuable contribu-

tion on the Bobath treatment, which is perhaps the most widely used in the UK and as it is written by the Bobaths themselves, it is both authoritative and up to date. This is in fact the clearest summary of their method that I have read recently and it is fascinating to see how their ideas have evolved over the years.

There is also a good account of the concept of Conductive Education which originated in Budapest, and is attracting increasing interest in the UK.

The Portage model, Vojta's treatment method, the work of Phelps, and the Sensory Integration Therapy devised by Jean

## Motoring John Byworth's Christmas choice

Here are some suggestions for gifts that any disabled motorist should be pleased to see awaiting them under the Christmas tree.

**Blind Spot Mirror** attaches to the outside mirror and is ideal for people who have trouble looking over their shoulder. £1.68

**Pound Coin Holder Keyfob.** If you lose your car key you've also lost your money so you're really in trouble! 99p

**Auto Test Set 3** is ideal for owners of automatics who have to be so careful about the condition of the battery - tests for tyre pressures, battery acid condition and anti-freeze condition in a neat package. £6.49

**Bump Stop Universal Trim** - useful for stopping wheelchairs damaging your own car's paintwork as well as other car's. Solid vinyl trim. £19.95

**Central Door Locking System** ensures that all the doors are locked without having to walk round the car each time. 2 door locking system. £47.70

**Coloured Door Mirrors** have universal fitting and are essential for owners of basic Mini automatics which do not have the outside mirror. £4.98

All these items can be bought from good car accessory shops, although prices may differ around the country.

John Byworth

Ayres are all well reviewed, each by an author with extensive practical experience.

The editor and McLellan each contribute thoughtful and provocative general discussion on the problems of treatment and its evaluation, recognising that children with cp need the best care we can provide even though scientific evidence is difficult to accumulate.

This book has been expertly planned and edited by David Scrutton and will be essential reading for all doctors, therapists and teachers with an interest in cerebral palsy.

David Hall

### TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT (3 MONTHS' DURATION) CO-ORDINATOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK SCALE 5 (£7920/£8697)

Following the success of this year's International Women's Week in Manchester, plans are now under way for 1986.

The aim is to take many more activities and events out to the community to prevent the festival being Town Hall based.

The temporary post of co-ordinator will entail responsibility for contacting women's organisations, women trade unionists, Council Departments and individuals to ensure maximum involvement and participation for publicising the week of events.

The appointment will be for 3 months' duration to prepare and oversee the events in March.

THIS POST IS AVAILABLE FOR JOB SHARE.

Further details concerning this post can be obtained by telephoning Vicky Rosin on 061-234 3260.

Applications from black women, disabled women and lesbians will be especially welcome.

Application forms and job description are available from the Staff Office, Town Clerk's Department, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 2LA (061-234 3077).

Closing date for receipt of applications: 17 December, 1985.

The City Council operates a Union Membership Agreement, under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Trade Union.

**MANCHESTER**  
City Council

Defending Jobs - Improving Services

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants



# "That's just what I wanted!"

Christmas presents that really work, tried out by Lin Berwick

George Berwick



The present I wanted most this Christmas was a hi-fi with compact disc player which would give high-quality sound and be easy to operate.

Most systems work on touch-sensitive technology and have a great many flashing lights and sometimes flashing words to tell you what is happening. There is even one that functions by the heat from your fingers on the glass panel. But all of them are useless if you are blind or have jerky movements of the hands.

Finding a shop that has the time and interest to show you what is available is another problem. At last I came across A.T. Labs in Ilford, Essex, which also has branches at Enfield and Hampstead. They pride themselves on their service to disabled people and have every right to.

They asked me how much we could afford to spend and what my special difficulties were. A week later they contacted me, said they had booked a demonstration room for an hour and invited me to listen and learn how to operate the hi-fi. There was no obligation to buy.

I came away with superb sound and although the pieces were from different manufacturers, it seemed as if they were made for each other. I could use them with ease.

The system comprises a **Thorens TD 318**, a **Denon cassette deck**, a **DRM11 Rotel RA840BX amplifier**, a **Rotel RT850L tuner** which has 8 pre-set radio stations and a memory, so there are no knobs to turn to



Lin Berwick has found a hi-fi and compact disc player she can use "with ease". She also found a shop that prides itself on its service to disabled people.

find a station; **Audio Research loud speakers** and a **Morantz 63B Compact Disc Player** which uses a laser beam on the base of the turntable so there is no arm to put on or needle to clean, and discs which play on only one side so you don't have to turn them over or clean them.

Together they cost £1,147, but they can be bought as separate items and are worth every penny if you can afford it.

The way to my heart is through music. But if the way to yours is through your stomach, the **Tefal Compact Cooker** is just the job. Earlier this year it won the 1985 Daily Mail Blue Ribbon Award for its versatile design, and it is certainly ideal for a person living alone, or for heating up something too small for a large oven. The oven and grill are inside and on top there is a non-stick plate for frying, which is removable.

It fits comfortably on to a worktop or small table and has a

door back and front so it can be operated from either side.

Switches are easy to operate. There are five heat settings with a prominent pointer control to tell the setting. For blind people it would have helped to include a few dots on the dial as a guide for the pointer.

This small oven would make a wonderful companion to the microwave for disabled people. It is attractive in looks and price - £42.99, from department stores.

If all you want is a snack, ask for a **Tefal Toastmaker**. It makes a tasty snack in ten minutes. The lock on the handle to keep top and bottom together while toasting is easy to manage.

Its light weight makes it rather mobile on a shiny surface so I would suggest using a non-slip mat underneath.

Because there are heating elements in the base and the inside of the lid, it may not be so suitable for someone who hasn't got

good hand control. It costs a reasonable £18.95.

When you have decided what you are putting in your sandwich and you can't open the jar, **Capscrew** will come to the rescue. Put the top of your jar into it, give a quick twist, and the lid turns easily. It can be hand-held or wall-mounted. Ideal for elderly people or people with limited wrist movement, £3.99.

For anyone who has uneven movement and might spill hot liquids, **Brinmark** has good looking, washable checked **cotton bibs**, backed with a special barrier cloth. (There is also a fire-proof apron for smokers). They have press-studs on both shoulders and are not too cumbersome if you are in a wheelchair. 4-sizes available, from £3.84 to £7.96. Pity they are called "re-usable" and come from the "Med-i-Pant range".

"**Sympathy**" is the name of a shampoo and conditioner from Johnson & Johnson designed for

the woman over-40 whose hair condition is changing and needs lots of conditioning. My mother tried it out and is now converted!

Disabled people who take high levels of medication should also find it puts vitality back into hair which has become dry and brittle.

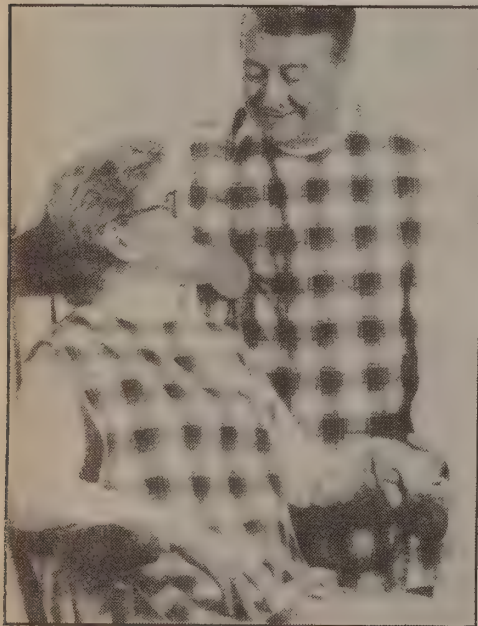
The shampoo is highly concentrated so you need only a little at a time. £1.25 for the shampoo, £1.35 for the conditioner. There is also a free booklet for Over-Forties, see below.

Lastly, gifts that could also help you in an emergency. **SOS Talisman** makes pendants, bracelets and watch attachments that are not just pretty bits of jewellery but can hold essential personal and medical information, such as blood group, allergies, medicines. I particularly liked the St Christopher pendant which comes chrome plated, gold plated or in sterling silver.

Also from SOS Talisman, an ear-splitting **Screech Alarm** to frighten off intruders or possible muggers. The gas cylinder is inclined to leak if it is not kept upright - as I found because I could not see the instructions on it - so best to keep it in its pouch and hang it round your neck. £3.20. All Talisman SOS products are available from jewellers, chemists and department stores.

Have a good Christmas!

Looking Good at Forty Plus is free. Send an s.a.e. to **Empathy Booklet (D.N.), Infoplan, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF**

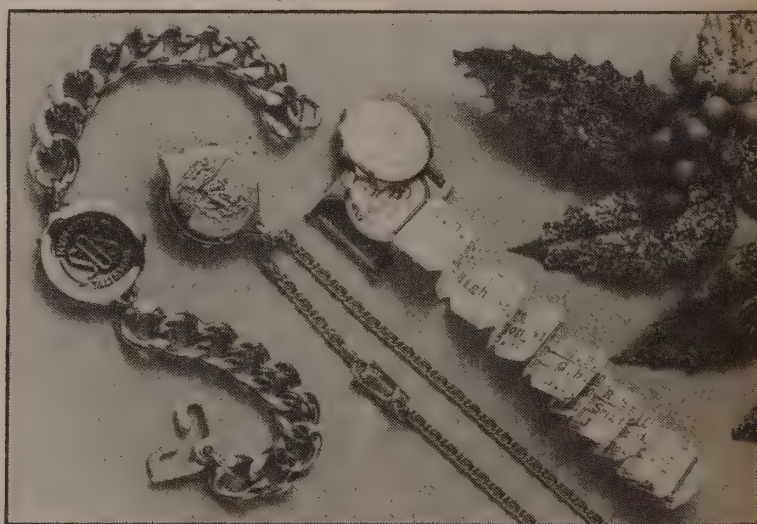


Left: Bibs to protect you from hot liquids come in three sizes - from **Brinmark Ltd, Jackson Road, Coventry CV6 4LY**.

Right: Wall-mounted version of the **Capscrew**. Give a quick twist and the lid turns easily.

Below right: **Screech Alarm** from **SOS Talisman** will frighten anyone off!

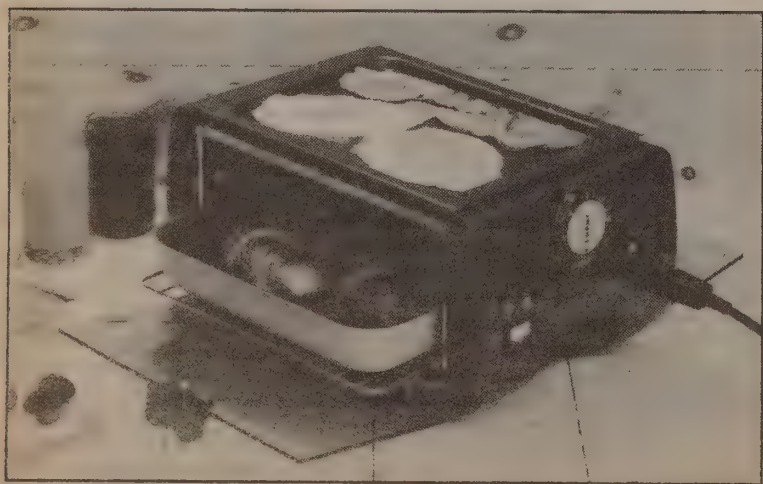
Bottom right: **Empathy shampoo and conditioner** from **Johnson & Johnson**.



Bracelet, St Christopher pendant and watch attachment from **SOS Talisman**.



**Tefal Toastmaker** comes in grey/white or beige/brown.



**Tefal Compact Cooker** is ideal for the person who lives alone.



## LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Edited by Simon Crompton

### Seaside sale

Anyone want to branch out into providing holidays for people with cerebral palsy? Shropshire Spastics Society is putting a sea-side bungalow up for sale and would like to hear from any group interested in managing it.

The bungalow, one of two built by Shropshire Spastics Society next to the beach at Prestatyn, North Wales, is specially designed for people with disabilities.

"Recently we've found that the number of people with cerebral palsy using the bungalow has decreased," says group Chairman Ted Cowan.

"We're subsidising people with other disabilities, often from outside Shropshire, from our inadequate funds. Management of the bungalows from such a long range is also beginning to present many difficulties," he says.

So Ted Cowan is looking for a group which could run the bungalow for the purpose it was originally intended for. Any takers? Contact him at 4 Oak Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 7RH. Tel: (0743) 253706 (business) or (0743) 4393 (home).



The students receive their certificates from the Mayor and Mayoress of Sutton (back left and centre) and the Mayor of Croydon (back right). At the front, from left, is Eileen Tamlin, David Redwood and Katie Mularkey.

### Croydon students make the grade

Three young people who attend Croydon, Sutton and District Spastics Society's work centre have gained Certificates of Secondary Education in English after 18 months of study.

The Croydon Work Centre on Bramley Hill has been running literacy classes for 7 years - but Eileen Tamlin, David Redwood and Katie Mularkey are the first to have been entered and to have passed the examination.

Now, following their example, 2 more students from the work centre are studying for the same

exam next June.

"It's started a bandwagon, which is a really good thing," says work centre manager Bert Strudwick.

Under the guidance of a teacher from Croydon Education Service, 24 of the 53 trainees at the Croydon Work Centre take the classes 3 times a week in two rooms built onto the centre specifically for the purpose.

The work centre also runs sessions in physiotherapy, speech therapy, cookery and domestic skills.

## Brent mothers' playgroup: catering for a real need

The Brent group's new Mothers and Children Group has identified a real need within the London Borough, believe its founders.

Judging by the interest already shown by health visitors and social services in the month since it was formed, they may well be right.

"We hope we can give children the opportunity to mix and play, and also parents a chance to chat and discuss their experiences," says Gina Kerr, treasurer of the Brent Association for CP People and those with Related Disorders.

The Brent Group has given a donation to buy toys, and applications for grants have gone into the council and the London Telethon appeal.

Gina Kerr's own experiences largely prompted the new venture.

At present, the group consists of under 4s, but children up to

10 would be welcome. The only real problem Gina Kerr can see is the size of the borough of Brent and how to get parents and children to the weekly sessions.

"I have a multi-handicapped 3 year-old, and ever since he was born I've looked for a playgroup. Everywhere I looked, the more able-bodied children just tended to push aside the physically disabled children, who just tend to sit and not know what's going on when confronted with a noisy group of children running all over the place. Our children need 1 to 1 input."

But the group is as much for the parents as the children. "We still find it very hard to know which body to approach when we need something," says Gina Kerr. "With all our knowledge put together, that should lead to an ideas sheet of what is available."

## VIEWPOINT

### What it's like to spend one day in a wheelchair

Claire Mallinson, who is able-bodied, was pushed around Wolverhampton for a day. Here she describes her feelings and experiences.

I knew that spending a day in a wheelchair, from 8 am till midnight, was going to teach me something, but I did not realise what a real eye opener it would prove to be.

It was not the practical difficulties of going shopping, going to the toilet, eating out and so on that had the greatest effect on me - though these were major problems in their own right.

What made the greatest impact were people's attitudes and reactions to me simply because I was in a wheelchair. As one of The Spastics Society's advertisements points out: it is the chair that people notice first and not the person in it.

During my first hour in the wheelchair I experienced a real sense of insecurity, a total loss of independence. It was a frightening and un-nerving feeling, one that I didn't like at all.

The confidence in myself as a person deteriorated and I became negative in my thinking, eg, "I can't go in there because of the steps", and "Getting there would be too much trouble".

However, as the day progressed these feelings went and my usual confidence returned.

Part of the day was spent visiting places in Wolverhampton with the help of a colleague.

The job centre was almost inaccessible. The door was so narrow that I couldn't get in without help, and no one was prepared to help.

Barclays Bank was inaccessible: we tried to get up the steps and couldn't. Yet at Lloyds Bank across the road there was no problem because they had a ramp.

The Post Office was easy to enter but when I asked for some first class stamps the cashier went red!

At the art gallery I could only



Deborah Chandos-Evans tries to pull Claire Mallinson up the steps of Barclays Bank - unsuccessfully.

see pictures at ground floor level, though they do have plans to install a lift.

At the department store, Beaties, people were helpful and put down a ramp so that I could get into the restaurant. But there was no disabled toilet.

The lady sitting opposite me averted her eyes and left the table at the earliest opportune moment.

The experience of the day that will remain in my memory for a long, long time occurred on a visit to my building society, where I handed over £50 in cash and my paying-in book. The cashier counted the money, looked towards my colleague who was 10 feet away, completely ignoring me, and said, "£50. Is that right?"

It was as if I didn't exist.

Obviously not everybody's reactions and attitudes were like that. The reception staff of the Express and Star newspaper, for example, treated me just like everybody else. But this is not something to be noted; it should be the norm.

I would not profess to say that I now know what it feels like to be a disabled person. But spending a day in a wheelchair was a tremendous insight.

What I experienced for the day and what many experience every day was undoubtedly discrimination - discrimination that we must all work hard to fight against.

Claire Mallinson is a Spastics Society Appeals Officer in the Midlands.

## THE LITERARY CONTEST FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**"If you write...  
short stories,  
poetry, prose,  
or plays...  
drop us a line."**

The contest is open to people who have any disability. As usual there are adult and junior sections with cash prizes for winning entries.

This year, for the first time, in addition to the prose and poetry categories, there will be a drama section run in conjunction with the Royal Court Theatre. So start writing now!

Details and entry forms from:

Nina Heycock, Richard House, 30-32 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RA.

Please send a large stamped addressed envelope with each application. Closing Date 27 March 1986.

**THE SPASTICS SOCIETY**  
Committed to equal opportunities in the arts.

### JUNIORS

If you're a young disabled person under 16 who writes then you should enter your work in our junior section. Write to the address below for more details. Why not tell your friends about the contest too?



# Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

**"There are times when I seem to do more for The Spastics Society in a voluntary capacity than it does for me"**

"Although I am actively involved with the Society I often feel alienated and on the fringe. There are times when I seem to do more for The Spastics Society in a voluntary capacity than it does for me in its official capacity.

I am sitting here wondering whether it will ever provide services for elderly parents and middle-aged adults like me. This problem is immense. Yet the Society says it has no figures showing this.

The Society has become a big, remote machine that is forced to cut through governmental red tape. Problems are immediate.

People within the Society should try to develop a true compassion: a compassion that reaches out to the disabled, without whom their jobs would not exist.

In a way, the Society has educated us too well. The cerebral palsied people whom it helped when it was formed are now asking that their views be listened to and acted upon.

As the Society has developed it has become a multi-million pound company and this in itself now creates problems. I understand this. I also understand the vast technical problems this can cause. Yet I always hope that the faith I have in the Society and what it has

achieved since its inception will never be wasted.

I would like to assure you, however, that this letter is in no way a criticism of Sir John Cox and his staff. They are doing and will, I am sure, continue to do their best.

It is more a reminder that severely disabled people with cerebral palsy are courageously, and sometimes in adversity, continuing to live their lives and that time is passing, never to return."

You have certainly raised a number of important and controversial questions and I will try to answer them as fully as I can in the space available.

I have talked over the points you make with the Society's director, Sir John Cox, and he wants me to assure you that he is fully aware of the needs and problems outlined by you.

The Society is committed to developing local support services and is planning to employ additional social workers and development officers whose tasks will be to identify and work on meeting local and individual needs more effectively.

Firstly, your point about the size of The Spastics Society.

Yes, it is now a very large enterprise which must have management structures and development objectives in order to meet ever-growing demands. However, this certainly need not result in total bureaucracy or lack of compassion and I know that it is the personal face of the Society that Sir John, in particular, has been trying to emphasise.

I am sure you will appreciate that there is really no way in which the Society can - or would want to - provide cradle-to-grave services for every child, adolescent and adult with cerebral palsy. In fact, there are many thousands of cp people who do not need the Society's direct help at all.

It is probably not appreciated, though, just how much the Society achieves for all disabled people through its publicity and lobbying.

I quite understand your feeling that you do more for the Society than it does for you, and I expect very many other voluntary workers feel the same - but what would we do without you all?

Your second point about consulting people with cerebral palsy is a very valid one.

It has taken the Society a long time to acknowledge fully that there are - and probably always



Simon Crompton

were - well-educated, well-informed and competent cp adults who not only have views, but are ready to express them.

For many years the Society has been run mainly by parents - and it takes most parents quite a long time to recognise that their children have grown up and have views of their own!

You will have read about the Alpha Advisory Committee. This is now very active and will be representing the views of people with cerebral palsy from all over the country through the Regional Alpha Advisory Committees and with the help of their own development and research officers.

Thirdly, I fully appreciate your concern about the needs of disabled people with ageing parents and your frustration at what appears to be undue delay in tackling these problems.

The Society has spent much time and effort in the past few years trying to establish the exact needs, but there really is no one solution that will meet everyone's personal situation.

Very often the assurance that something will be available when you require it is more important than an actual vacancy or immediate plan of action.

It is vital, however, to find out what the range of needs in a particular area is likely to be and what the social services departments and other agencies are planning.

Most important of all is to explore one's own personal future with everyone concerned.

If your social services department - which is ultimately responsible both practically and financially - has no plans for people in your age-group and with your special requirements, now is the time to alert your Spastics Society social worker and development officer and to start asking questions of your local councillor and MP.

I do hope that you will continue your voluntary work and that the plans for your own future will soon become clearer.

Margaret Morgan was Controller of Social Services at The Spastics Society before her retirement in 1983.

## CLASSIFIED

### For Sale

BEC 40 HORIZON KERB CLIMBER ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR with weatherproof cape. Unused. £1,000. Tel: 021-422 8391.

HUSTLER HARRIER 1000cc Automatic B.M.C. Engine Kitcar designed for the carriage of disabled wheelchair persons. Electric tail ramp. Not been used since constructed. £3,500 o.n.o. Tel: 01-300 4015.

GREAT FUN TO RIDE. Honda Motor Tricycle. Little used. Hand controls, balloon tyres, back and foot rests, basket. £425 o.n.o. Tel: 01-609 0583 (evenings).

METRO 1.3 HLE, Gowering Chairman wheelchair vehicle. 15,000 miles, reg. 1982. Garage stored. £5,250. Tel: (0446) 734525.

ESCA CHAIRLIFT covers 14 stairs. Perfect working order. Can be seen operating. £1,000 o.n.o. Tel: (0827) 288935.

MECANIDS BATH HOIST, used only 6 times. £250. Contact Mrs Murray, 1, The Lindens, Prospect Hill, Walthamstow,

London E17. Tel: 01-520 3053 after 6.30pm.

### Jobs

MAN AND LADY would like lady or man to help and live in. Good pay and time off. Age about 40-50. Tel: Wakefield 263688.

### Find a Friend

MIDDLE AGED MAN WITH OWN HOUSE in Harrogate and apartment in Spain seeks companionship with female of 40 years plus, who is quite mobile. Would like to correspond, and travel abroad twice a year, hopefully leading to lasting relationship. Please write to Mr S Pheasant, 65 Bramham Drive, Harrogate, North Yorks.

TRESIZE COTTAGE purpose-designed holidays for families with a wheelchair. Send sae for full details to: Mrs Russell, Tresize, St Martin, Helston, Cornwall TR12 6EF.

# What's On

## Courses at Castle Priory

**Paget Gorman Signed Speech** - a course for speech therapists, teachers, parents and care staff. It will explain the basic principles of this communication system and the use of the manual which covers a core vocabulary of 350 signs. 2-5 January. Tuition £55, residence £55.50.

**The Young Child with a Visual Disability** - a repeat of a course held in 1985 for those with little or no experience in this field. 6-9 January. Tuition £55, residence £55.50.

**Music in Special Education** - for teachers, therapists or care staff in schools seeking to broaden the role of music in the curriculum. 13-15 January. Details of charges on request to Castle Priory.

**Lay Counselling Skills** - a weekend course for those wishing to build up skills in relation to others. For people with disabilities, parents of children with special needs or members of relevant professions. 17-19 January. Tuition £47, residence £38.

**The Hampshire Assessment Materials** - a one day workshop on the use of HALO (Hampshire Assessment for Living with Others) and HANC (Hampshire New Curriculum) for people with severe learning difficulties. 21 January. Inclusive fee £18.

**Counselling Adolescents with a Hearing Impairment** - a course for teachers, careers staff, and both field and residential social workers. 31 January-2 February. Tuition £43, residence £38.

## Conferences and Leisure

**Disabled Participation in Youth and Community Work** is a study day organised by ASBAH on 12 December on the experiences of independence training leading to integration into the community. It is for those involved in all aspects of youth and community work. Three of the speakers have spina bifida and all lead independent and active lives. For further details contact Denise Dunning, ASBAH, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EP. Tel: 01-388 1382.

**Conquest Art Exhibition.** Conquest, the society for art for the physically handicapped is holding an exhibition by disabled people at the Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, from 2-23 December, open from 10am to 3pm each day.

**A concert in aid of The International Cerebral Palsy Society** will be held at St John's, Smith Square, London on 17 December at 7.30pm. The IASPC Chamber Orchestra (students and graduates of the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall) conducted by Nicholas Michalakos, will play Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Stravinsky's Dance Concertantes and pieces by Stephen Goss and Paul Patterson. Tickets at £3.50 or £2.50 (£1.50 for students and OAPs) from the Box Office, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA, tel: 01-222 1061.

**London Leisure '86** is a non-residential recreational weekend on 22-23 February at the Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre. Representatives from sports, recreational and disability organisations will discuss ideas for leisure and sports activities for people with disabilities. Further details from Ruth Cottrell, TSS London Region, 32-38 Osnaurgh Street, London NW1 3ND. Tel: 01-387 5505.

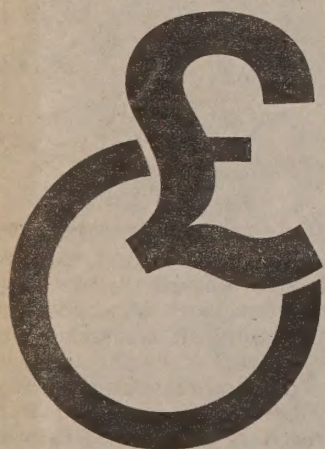
**The Human Touch** is an exhibition of human figure sculpture from different cultures around the world at the British Museum from 5 February to 16 March. Visitors are able to touch the exhibits and it is meant for everyone, not only those with a visual handicap. The exhibition is accessible to wheelchair users and there is space to come up close to the exhibits. Further details from Education Services at the British Museum. Tel: 01-636 1555.

**The Computer as an Aid for those with Special Needs** is an international conference taking place on 15-17 April at Sheffield City Polytechnic reviewing the use of microcomputers as an aid to people with disabilities and planning for the future. Organised by Sheffield ACTIVE and the Polytechnic, it will include formal sessions and informal workshops. Fees are £98 for a full residential place, £25 for a non-residential place and £5 for a half day. Further information from the Conference Secretary, ACTIVE, Sheffield City Polytechnic, 37 Broomgrove Road, Sheffield S10 2BP. Tel: (0742) 665274, ext 3360.

**Woman and Handicap** is an international conference at the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg from 20-27 April. It will explore the questions: "Is being a woman a handicap in itself?" "Do women have a different approach to dealing with a handicap?" "What do we want to change - and how?" For young people, both disabled and able-bodied. Further information from Verena Aigner, Mobility International, 62 Union Street, London SE1 7TD. Tel: 01-403 5688.

**Pastoral Care for People with Mental Handicap** is a multidisciplinary introductory meeting sponsored by the Section of Psychiatry of Mental Handicap at St George's Hospital Medical School on 24 April 1986 from 10am to 4pm. Further information from Dr Sheila Hollins, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE. Tel: 01-672 1255.

**Today... Building Tomorrow** is an international conference on the prevention and treatment of handicapping conditions of neurological origin. It is being held by The Quebec Cerebral Palsy Association from 4-6 June 1986 in Montreal. Presentation papers are invited especially those emphasising practical approaches for dealing with handicapping conditions. Those interested should send a 50 word summary and cv to Daniel LaRoche, Conference Secretary General, c/o GEMS Conference and Consulting Services, 5003 Victoria Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H3W 2N2, Canada. For general information contact CP Conference Secretariat, GEMS Conference and Consulting Services, PO Box 367, Snowdon, Montreal, Quebec H3X 3T6, Canada.



There's no such thing as a free lunch - and *Disability Now* is no exception.

The newspaper costs The Spastics Society 40p a copy or £4.80 for a year's supply. At the moment it comes to you free.

If you enjoy reading *Disability Now* and would like to see it continue, please send us a donation. £1 or £1,000, everything is welcome!

Please make out cheques and postal orders to The Spastics Society, and send them to

Gayle Mooney  
Room 2B  
*Disability Now*  
12 Park Crescent  
London W1N 4EQ.



## Scouting endeavours (see page 16)

Ralph Wright PR



Above: members of the 26th High Wycombe Penn and Tylers Green Scout Group, Buckinghamshire, kitted out for the task of polishing an aeroplane from nose to tail to raise money for The Spastics Society. Right: members of the 1st Hatfield Peverel Scout Group, Essex, who raised money through crafts, coffee mornings and discos, pictured with local girl guide Paula Allen, who has cerebral palsy.

Braintree and Witham Times



## PEOPLE

Simon Crompton



Anita Maunsell, The Spastics Society's head of publicity and information, and Nigel Tuckett, graphic designer, display the certificate of merit won by the Society's annual report for 1983/4 in Accountancy magazine's Charity Accounts Award. The judges were looking for readability, good design and the honesty of the way the accounts are presented within the report. Mrs Joyce Smith, chairman of the Spastics Society, received the award and £100 cheque on 5 November at Chartered Accountant's Hall, London and thanked Anita Maunsell and her department. The top prize was won by the British Heart Foundation.

## To catch a thief - with a lucky break

Birmingham Post and Mail



Shackled in handcuffs and ball and chain, Sergeant Doughty and WPC Strachan prepare to set off from Winson Green Prison.

A thief got the shock of his life when he was "nicked" by 2 convicts on a flight to Majorca.

For the "convicts" were really police officers raising money for The Spastics Society on a sponsored jailbreak organised by Midlands Region.

Attempting to get as far as possible from Winson Green Prison in 12 hours, WPC Ann Strachan and Sergeant Cliff Doughty from Kings Heath police station in Birmingham persuaded Intasun to fly them to Palma on a Dan Air flight.

Dressed in convicts' boiler-suits, attached to a plastic ball and chain and handcuffed together, the police officers caught a passenger in the act of pinching 200 cigarettes from the duty-free trolley an hour into the flight.

"We informed the stewardess, but weren't really sure what to do legally, having never arrested someone on a plane before," says Sergeant Doughty. They detained the man and left the Dan Air captain to sort out the details in Spain.

But that wasn't the end of the escapade - Sergeant Doughty found himself on the receiving end of the law a few minutes later trying to get on the return flight.

Due to a mix-up with boarding cards, Sergeant Doughty had to leap over a "no entry" barrier, and was pounced on by a Spanish policeman who held the sergeant at gunpoint, unable to understand his protestations.

"He went through all my gear," says Sergeant Doughty, "and found the convicts' clothes, the ball and chain and a toy gun we were carrying. I showed him some police documentation we had, but he thought we'd stolen it so that made matters worse!"

An English-speaking Spanish policeman intervened, and the Sergeant caught his plane - having delayed it for 20 minutes!

The team from Kings Heath police station raised around £500, including money Sergeant Doughty and WPC Strachan collected on the plane.

The jailbreak as a whole is ex-

pected to have raised £3,000.

East Region's sponsored jailbreak on 28 September proved to be an engaging affair for another woman police officer.

Janet Gavin, Colchester's crime prevention officer, was called into the jailbreak at the last minute to make up one of two teams from Jacques Hall, The Spastics Society's residential centre in Essex. She was paired with Peter Knights, chef at Jacques Hall.

The two will be teaming up on a more permanent basis on 9 January - the date they've arranged for their marriage.

## SOS raises £30,000

Lenny Patterson



James Willoughby from Jack Howarth House pulls out a winning ticket at the Stars Organisation for Spastics' National Raffle draw on 31 October. It raised £30,000. First prize of a Ford Fiesta was won by a 6-year-old girl - but her parents will take care of it for the time-being!

## London to York - riding high!

The London to York sponsored bicycle ride has raised £8,500 for The Spastics Society.

That makes an average of £87 raised by each cyclist who took part - although one competitor managed to raise a total of £525.

Brenda and Penny Winter summed up the spirit of the event in a letter to Christopher Robinson, the Society's Senior Appeals Development Officer who organised the event.

"We did enjoy the ride, never dreamed we would actually make it all the way to York. We were helped along by all the other cyclists giving cheers as they rode past, plus, of course your representatives."

"We felt privileged to have taken part and had the added bonus that something we enjoyed was to help others."

**The Disability Rights Handbook**, 10th edition, a guide to rights, benefits and services for all people with disabilities and their families, has now been published. It is available, price £2.40 post free, from The Disability Alliance ERA, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2H 8NJ. Tel: 01-240 0806

**The Spastics Society's latest poster**, another treatment of its attitudes campaign, is enclosed in this issue. It will start appearing around the country in mid-December. For further copies, contact the Information Department, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020, ext 202.

**Access to the Underground** is the title of a guide for elderly and disabled people published by London Regional Transport. The new edition of the 74-page booklet has just been published, charting the complete route between street level and platforms at all tube stations. It also gives

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

information on lavatories, buses and telephones. The guide costs 50p from LRT's travel information centres at Victoria, Euston, Piccadilly Circus, Oxford Circus, King's Cross, Charing Cross, St James's Park and Heathrow: or 70p by post from the Unit for Disabled Passengers, London Regional Transport, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD.

**Shape**, the organisation which runs arts workshops, projects and performances with disabled people or those with special needs, has moved to 1 Thorpe Close, London W10 5XL. Tel: 01-960 9245 (main office), 01-960 9249 (ticket scheme).

**Gateway** is a directory of over 30 local farmers and landowners in Nottinghamshire who offer visits to groups of disabled people and those with special needs. The Farm Visits Scheme is part

of the County Council's "Operation Gateway" scheme, aimed at improving access to the countryside for disabled people. The directory, which is free, is available from Nottinghamshire County Council, Leisure Services/Countryside, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 6BJ. Tel: (0602) 824824, Ext 375.

**Invalid Care Allowance - claim now.** The ICA Steering Group (representing over 50 organisations) is encouraging married women to claim ICA now. This is paid to people who are not working but are caring for a severely disabled person. Up to now a woman who is married or living with a man has not been allowed to claim. However, a test case is waiting to be heard by the European Court of Justice and if the case wins, claims will be backdated to the date when

they were first made. For an information leaflet contact the ICA, c/o 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020, ext. 231.

**A new Mobility Bus service** has been introduced by London Buses in the Boroughs of Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Enfield. The buses have a wheelchair lift, design features to help elderly and partially sighted people and an attendant to make getting on and off easier. For details of the services contact the Travel Information Service. Tel: 01-222 1234 (24 hrs)

**Adductor Tenotomy and Obturator Neurectomy** - A Guide for Parents has been published by the Watford Spastics Group. It gives useful information and advice about the operation and after-care. Available free (or 25p a copy for orders from local groups) from Pam Harris, 123 Woodland Drive, Watford, Herts WD1 3DA.

**The National Key Scheme** of public toilets for disabled people now has more than 200 District and Borough Councils participating in the scheme, along with other organisations such as the Mansfield Brewery which has fitted the locks to toilets for disabled people in 13 pubs between Leeds and Leicester. A full list of these toilets can be obtained from RADAR for 25p. Write to RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

**In Our Care** is a handbook of activities and exercises for everyone who works with frail old people - either professionally or as a relative, friend or neighbour. It costs £6 including postage and packing. Also available is a sound cassette which may be used in the exercises on relaxation and reminiscence (£3). Together the handbook and tape cost £8. Available from Help the Aged Education Department, PO Box 460, 16 & 18 St James Walk, London EC1R 0BE.



## The Spastics Society presses to save Taxicard

The Spastics Society has joined with 3 other organisations for disabled people in a campaign to try and save the London Taxicard scheme.

The scheme, which allows 45,000 elderly and disabled people to travel within London for reduced fares, is currently funded by the Greater London Council which will be abolished in April next year.

The Spastics Society, Age Concern Greater London, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Greater London Association for Disabled People are putting pressure on the London Co-ordinating Committee of Successor Councils to continue the scheme Londonwide after abolition.

They believe that the scheme must be run with participation by all London boroughs, because smaller schemes might not attract taxi firms, and because journeys have to cross borough boundaries.

The Co-ordinating Committee discussed Taxicard at their meeting on 27 November, but deferred a decision until December.

"Indications from the first meeting look favourable, and we must keep up the pressure," says John Cox, director of The Spastics Society.

"It is important to ensure that all people have equal rights of leaving home, including disabled people," he says. "Compared with making the London transport system accessible to disabled people, Taxicard is a real, cheap option - £2 million will allow the freedom of the individual."

## Mrs T. congratulates fundraising scouts

Press Association

Six enterprising scouts and cubs who invented original ways of raising money for The Spastics Society were rewarded with a trip to Downing Street last month. They met the Prime Minister.

They even saw the Queen and the whole of the Cabinet.

They all took part in 6 weeks of fundraising for "Endeavour for The Spastics Society" and came up with ideas as diverse as washing an aeroplane, cooking a 75 foot sausage and polishing policemen's boots.

Mrs Thatcher spoke to all 6 of the scouts, and took them on a half hour guided tour of Downing Street.

"I was very excited, and she was much nicer than I thought she'd be," says 10 year-old Malcolm Hughes from the 22nd Saint George's Inner Birmingham pack. "She wasn't talking posh like she does on television."

Malcolm managed to get Berketex to donate a wedding dress which he is selling through a local paper to raise money.

Timothy Theaker, aged 14, from the 6th Elland Scout Troop in West Yorkshire and his friend Jonathan Inman invested 50p in a West Yorkshire Day Rover train ticket, travelled 270 miles and raised £70 in sponsorship.

Liam Parsonage, 9, from the 16th Lancaster Maclean Cub Pack (Lancashire), raised £285 from selling off his 75ft sausage (donated by a local butcher) as hot dogs, and was thrilled with Mrs Thatcher's reaction. "A what... A what" she said when I told her about the sausage," says Liam. "She said she'd had sausage before but never a 75ft sausage!"



The Prime Minister talks to the cubs and scouts in a Downing Street reception room. From left to right: Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP, Simon Gray, Stuart Baker, Mark Wilson, Timothy Trecker and Liam Parsonage.

14 year-old Mark Wilson from the 26th High Wycombe Penn and Tylers Green Scout Group (Bucks) also won praise for the originality of his money-raising scheme, which started with cleaning cars.

"It started as a joke," he says, "that cars were too boring - so why not try buses? Then we thought, why not try an aeroplane?" So 22 of the troop spent 3 hours polishing the outside and cleaning the inside of a British Midlands Alpha Papa, Britain's largest privately owned scheduled domestic carrier. They were given £300 for it.

On their way in to 10 Downing Street, the cubs and scouts saw all the cabinet coming out

after a meeting. After seeing Mrs Thatcher, they couldn't get out of Downing Street because the Queen was arriving.

What with various interviews with the press and an interview on BBC TV's *Breakfast Time*, it was a busy day for the 6 boys and their pack leaders who had come from all over the country.

Mrs Joyce Smith, chairman of The Spastics Society, John Cox, director, and Monica Hart, press officer, were also there and were presented with a Dundee cake made on the Downing Street premises. This was auctioned on *Breakfast Time* and fetched £1,500 from an anonymous bidder, who returned the cake to The Spastics Society. It is now being raffled through the Society's shops.

If you would like to receive a free copy of the newspaper regularly, please send your name, address and occupation to the Circulation Supervisor, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

## 1981 Act is being neglected says teachers' union

Few education authorities are making a serious effort to implement the 1981 Education Act according to a teachers' union.

The National Association of School Masters/Union of women Teachers has carried out a survey of 61 local education authorities in England and Wales. It has found that only 0.92 per cent of the school population surveyed had been statemented (assessed for special educational needs) in accordance with the Act.

This accounts for less than half (46 per cent) of those pupils who were classified as handicapped under the old legal framework, before the 1981 Act

was brought into effect.

In maintained primary and secondary schools only 0.1 per cent of the school population has been statemented, and 54.4 per cent in special schools, the survey says.

Out of 15,847 schools, only 212 have been modified with ramps, lifts etc., for pupils with physical disabilities.

The survey concludes that some authorities are loath to assess children.

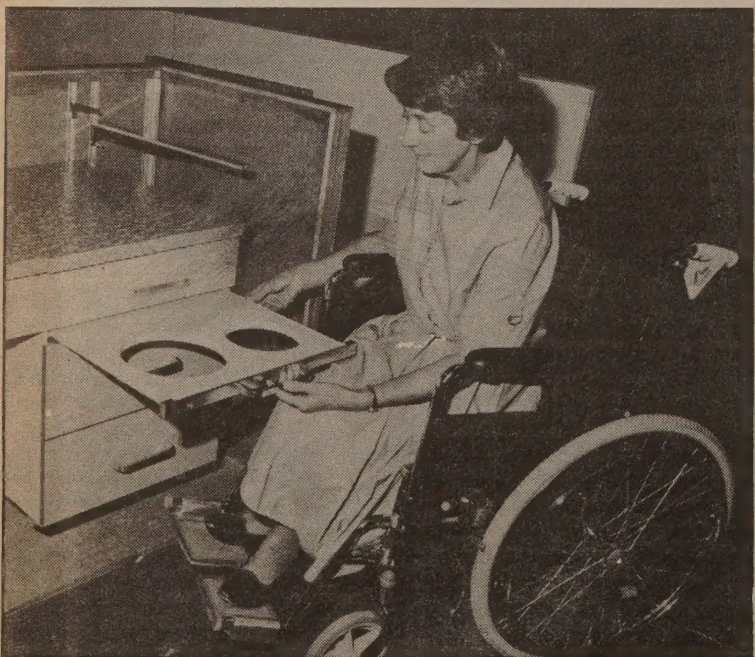
NAS/UWT General Secretary, Fred Smithies, said: "The reason for not issuing statements is an inability to provide the additional resources needed for pupils

who are the subject of statements."

Freddie Green, The Spastics Society's director of education, was sceptical of the survey's results, on an initial impression.

"The statement the union has released might lead one to believe that the results resemble 'half a loaf (just 61 authorities surveyed) 'half-baked,'" he said. "'Half-baked' in that the researchers do not seem to have fully understood what the statements intend.

"It must also be said that mis-interpretation of the process by the LEAs may now have reached significant levels."



**Inventive economy.** Wolverhampton Council's Social Services Department is saving thousands of pounds a year on adaptations for disabled people through a simple invention. It is a very strong special support bracket capable of minute adjustment. Prior to the bracket, council properties for disabled people had to have extensive adaptations, especially to the height of kitchen equipment.

## The top slot

The Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representatives) Bill makes its debut in Parliament on 4 December, sponsored by Tom Clarke, Labour MP for Monklands West, Scotland.

Last month Tom Clarke came top in the ballot for backbench bills which means his Bill has a good chance of becoming law. It will be concerned with the needs of mentally handicapped people.

So far he has met representatives from the Community Care Campaigners - Dr Barnardo's, MENCAP, MIND and The Spastics Society - Scottish organisations and the Treasury. Details of the Bill are not available yet.

## SIMPLY not on!

Spastics International Medical Publications (S.I.M.P.), publisher of the international journal, *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, and medical books is to change its name.

From January 1986 it will be called The Mac Keith Press, after Dr Ronald Mac Keith, a paediatrician who achieved a world-wide reputation for his work with cp children.

In 1958 Dr Mac Keith founded the journal with financial support from The Spastics Society, and when an editorial board was established it was called Spastics International Medical Publications. But the name has been causing problems.

"In North America the word 'spastic' has, in the lay sense, no association with handicap and cerebral palsy, but is simply used as a term of abuse," says Dr Martin Bax, Senior Editor of SIMP.

"Our American distributors believe that our present title is positively disadvantageous to us. Apparently booksellers are likely to think we are some joke publication, like *Private Eye*."

There have also been difficulties in translating "spastic" into other languages.

The name has been changed with the approval of The Spastics Society's Executive Council.

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